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THE BLIND AMERICAN

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THE BLIND AMERICAN

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NFB'S PRESIDENT EARNS DOUBLE HONORS

Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind, has twice in recent weeks received recognition for distinguished performance in his profession.

A senior attorney on the staff of the California State Department of Water Resources, Kletzing was promoted in January to the position of Assistant Chief Counsel of the Department -- the highest civil service rank yet attained by any blind person in California. In his new capacity, Kletzing will be second in command over a departmental staff of 18 attorneys.

In addition to his promotion, Kletzing has been presented with the state of California's Award for Superior Accomplishment in recognition of his contribution to the success of the state's complex water resources program.

He received the governmental citation during special ceremonies held January 29 at the state capitol in Sacramento. The award was presented by William E. Warne, director of California's Resources Agency, who described the event as "a token of the deep appreciation of the State of California for your outstanding contribution to the Department of Water Resources."

Kletzing's efforts in the negotiation of contracts governing the South Bay (California) Aqueduct and in the development of standard legal provisions for water supply contracts were singled out by the agency director as "an extremely significant step toward making possible the delivery of project water to the people of California."

Warne pointed out in his conferral speech that "legally binding forms of agreement, containing the essential points negotiated, were developed by Mr. Kletzing in a matter of a few hours when deadlines were imminent. He played leading roles in the sensitive negotiations with water districts, in some cases dovetailing provisions with simultaneous negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation.

"Improved morale within the legal staff of the department as a whole, as well as positive assurance to water users throughout the state that the department is progressing toward timely water delivery, are necessary results of such accomplishments," Warne said.

"In addition, Mr. Kletzing's performance has set a high standard and an example for those who have been privileged to work with him," he concluded.

In his capacity as senior attorney, Kletzing has for several years directed the legal negotiation of water supply contracts for his state -- highly complex and intricate operations involving numerous agencies throughout the state and covering expenditures of more than three billion dollars by water users over the next 75 years.

Kletzing also was California's legal representative in contract negotiations with the federal government leading to construction of the joint-use facilities of the San Luis Project in the state's San Joaquin Valley -- an unprecedented example of cooperation through which state and federal governments have pooled their resources to construct and operate the 450-million dollar water venture. The joint development, which provides a guide through the complicated relations between the national and state governments, was scrutinized over several months by Congress and the Secretary of the Interior and found to be legally "water-tight."

Besides these duties, Kletzing acts as chief water rights expert for his state agency, representing the department before the Water Rights Board, the California Water Commission and other public bodies. His primary responsibility in this area of activity is to protect the claim to water rights of the giant state project; in other cases he also presents the views and opinions of the department's experts to make certain that the most efficient projects will be brought into being.

In addition, Kletzing's official assignments include taking charge of the agency's legal concern with federal legislation, with inter-state water compacts and various relationships with other states.

California's massive state water project -- planned, designed and built by the Department of Water Resources -- involves the construction of 21 dams, among them two of the largest in the nation. The project also entails hundreds of miles of aqueduct, canals, pipelines, tunnels and power plants throughout the state -- all designed to serve the water demands of the state's booming population and to solve such chronic problems as those of flood control and inadequate irrigation for farmlands.

During the past year a \$120 million contract, largest in the nation's history, was awarded for construction of the Oroville Dam complex, key unit in the plan to provide maximum water benefits to all parts of the state. At the same time President Kennedy and Governor Brown together launched construction of the San Luis Project, an important link to move water to Southern California in 1971.

The first water to be delivered through state project facilities began flowing through the South Bay Aqueduct into Livermore Valley last May. The full South Bay Aqueduct, scheduled for completion in 1966, will take water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara -- extending some 40 miles at a cost of about \$45 million.

The state Department of Water Resources is marketing the project's water under contracts expected to return the full cost (\$1.75 billion) to the state. The department, in which Kletzing plays a key role, has already begun operating the system that is intended to assure the nation's largest state the water it must have for continued development.

Kletzing's remarkable rise in his professional career has not been without its share of frustration and setbacks along the way. As a young lawyer, fresh from the University of California's Boalt School of Law, he applied for some 30 positions before finding employment. He worked for seven years for the federal bureau of reclamation in Sacramento.

It was Kletzing's initial attempt to get a federal job that led to a case now famous in the annals of the organized blind movement. He successfully passed a civil service examination for attorney, only to find later that officials in Washington had removed his name from the civil service list.

Convinced that the only reason for this was that Washington had discovered his blindness, Kletzing went to the National Federation of the Blind, with whose vigorous backing he made a test case of the issue -- the celebrated "Kletzing case" through which the NFB ultimately forced open the doors of civil service employment in various fields formerly barred altogether to blind persons.

No one is likely to argue, on the basis of Kletzing's subsequent

career in both federal and state government, that blindness is any barrier to employment in the civil service -- no matter how high up on the ladder.

FAST SHUFFLE FOR NEW JERSEY BLIND

By Robert H. Owens

(Editor's note: As a sequel to our brief report last month on ominous developments in New Jersey's blind-aid program, THE BLIND AMERICAN invited Robert H. Owens, executive secretary of Associated Blind of New Jersey, to describe the state's new welfare "reorganization" plan in more detail. Following is his report.)

An editorial archer for a leading New Jersey newspaper recently pulled his bow against the state's welfare programs, sending blunted arrows flying at "lavish expenditures" and the \$36 million cost of the programs in 1961. According to the newspaper, too many are getting too much.

The editorial writer's heaviest shafts were aimed at the state's aid to dependent children program, just as other writers, in other states, have concentrated attacks on that particular phase of welfare.

But in New Jersey now, as in other states, there no longer is a particular phase of welfare. Pot-shots at dependent children are pot-shots at the aged, the totally disabled and, yes, the needy blind. Until December 11, 1962, such was not the case in New Jersey: the needy blind enjoyed the distinction of a separate program, administered by county welfare boards, under the supervision of the Commission for the Blind.

All that was changed in December when the New Jersey Legislature, in its final working session of the year, passed a bill to reorganize the state's welfare programs. This was December 3. That day, both houses passed the bill -- which had ping-ponged between the legislative branches all year -- as an "emergency" measure.

The "emergency," it seems, is one of enabling the Garden State to dig deeper into federal tills as soon as possible. Throughout the new law, signed by Governor Richard J. Hughes 8 days after it was approved, there is heavy emphasis on obtaining additional welfare funds from Washington.

Consider this excerpt from the law:

". . . the Commissioner of Institutions and Agencies is authorized, directed and empowered to issue, or to cause to be issued by the appropriate departmental officers or agencies, all necessary rules and regulations and administrative orders, and to do or cause to be done all other acts and things necessary to secure for the State of New Jersey the maximum Federal financial participation that is available with respect to a program of assistance for the blind . . ."

Does that seem so terrible? Not really. But what you just read is only an excerpt, an excerpt from a 31-page, omnibus law which assigns the Commission for the Blind to the state's Division of Public Welfare, under the vast and powerful Department of Institutions and Agencies (17 relief and training institutions and noninstitutional agencies, and eight correctional institutions).

It is a law that has its purpose, as it relates to the needy blind, clearly stated by its sponsor, Assemblywoman Mildred Barry Hughes of Union County. Every piece of legislation proposed in New Jersey is accompanied on its travels by a printed, explanatory statement. Here's what the statement says in explanation of the law's effect on the 950 blind assistance recipients in New Jersey:

"Reorganize the blind assistance program so that it will be administered by the County Welfare Boards, under State supervision by the Bureau of Assistance, according to the same pattern that now exists for the other three Federally matched public assistance programs, viz. Old Age Assistance, Disability Assistance, and Assistance for Dependent Children . . ."

The statement makes it clear, very clear, that New Jersey's needy blind have fallen prey, through no fault of their own, to the baited trap described by National Federation of the Blind President Russell Kletzing as "Snare 16" -- the federal option which holds out a larger handful of money to those states with scrambled aid programs.

New Jersey's organized blind fought a 16-year battle against "decentralization" legislation. Norbert Cifelli, new board chairman of Associated Blind of New Jersey, Inc. (organized 1962), recalls the first attempts to effect such changes as the result of a study by a special legislative committee headed by the late Walter Kidde (rhymes with ditty), a prominent North Jersey businessman. The "Alexander Report" followed several years later, with virtually the same recommendations -- then came the handful of money, and that was just too much.

The Commission for the Blind opposed the new law, too, but its protestations were mild-mannered. Toward the end -- a year or so ago -- it went off on a different tactic, attempting to be transferred to the State Department of Education!

The new law, which is technically effective in mid-1963, makes the commission a constituent agency -- along with the Bureau of Assistance and the Bureau of Children's Services -- of the Division of Public Welfare, under the Department of Institutions and Agencies.

The law creates a new 15-member citizens' board of public welfare, and specifies that three members of the board be concurrently serving in the Commission for the Blind. (But this stipulation provides the blind little comfort in view of the requirement that all assistance programs be administered according to the "same pattern.")

It allows the commission to appoint its own executive officer (unclassified civil service) and says it is to retain its present structure, except for its former responsibility in supervising the blind assistance program. That function is to be taken over by the Bureau of Assistance, under the review authority of the giant citizens' board.

County welfare boards will continue to be the link between the needy blind and the assistance supervisors, but the supervisors are now further from the client, higher on the administrative ladder.

In New Jersey, there are reportedly more than 80,000 "reliefers" or 21,527 welfare families. The cost of the overall program to the state, in 1961, was \$15,840,000. Using that figure, the "reorganization law" would reduce state costs to a little under \$8,000,000. However, contradictions to this estimate can be found where statistics are juggled to provide selected slants or different lines in the welfare picture.

From any angle, the new feature of New Jersey's welfare programs, as they relate to the blind, are clear beyond doubt. From their higher perch, welfare administrators will not attempt to distinguish the state's 950 aid-to-the-blind clients from the 80-odd thousands of other welfare recipients. From those heights, everybody looks the same and that's how they will be treated -- the law says it must be.

WELFARE "RAID" SCANDAL IN CALIFORNIA

Unscheduled surprise early-morning visits to the homes of welfare recipients in California's Alameda County have led to the firing of a partially blind social worker and to vigorous denunciation of the program by the chairman of the state Social Welfare Board who is a national leader of the blind.

Benny Parrish, 29, blind employee for the past three years of the county welfare department, was fired in January following his refusal on grounds of moral principle to join in the secret raids which were supposedly aimed at uncovering fraud among families receiving aid to needy children. The raids were not carried out only against those suspected of being ineligible but against a random sample of all cases.

The secret raids were subsequently attacked by Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, welfare board chairman and president of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, as "equally destructive of human dignity, civil rights and the purposes of public welfare."

Parrish, born in 1933, in his teens began to lose his sight by a progressive malady. He attended the Oakland Orientation Center for the Blind, from which he graduated in 1954. At the University of California in Berkeley, he was active in the Blind College Students Association until his graduation in 1959. Now married, he is a resident of Richmond, California.

Parrish was reported by the Oakland TRIBUNE as having justified his refusal to join the welfare raids on the basis that they

serve only to destroy the effectiveness of welfare workers. "These unscheduled visits are an infringement upon the privacy of these people, which imply that they are guilty of fraud," he declared.

"There is sufficient existing structure to guard against fraud. In the few cases where I found evidence of fraud, I made immediate references to the investigators," he said.

"It would seem that the only possible theory upon which these raids could be carried out is that recipients of public assistance are something less than citizens of the United States, or even human beings," Parrish declared. "The carrying out of a policy of this kind would be much more appropriate for zoo keepers than for social caseworkers."

Dr. tenBroek's statement, which drew banner front-page headlines in the Berkeley GAZETTE on January 19, reportedly labeled the policy of stealthy home visitations as "a pattern of creeping infiltration of the law of welfare by the law of crimes, which replaces rehabilitation with retaliation and seeks to convert public welfare into private warfare against the unfortunate."

He declared that the clandestine calls "destroy dignity and privacy, create fear and bewilderment on the part of parents and children alike, impair the relationship between client and worker -- and in short imperil the basic purposes and aims of the welfare program.

"Raids by policemen are permissible when they have some good ground to suppose that a crime has been committed -- but raids by policemen are not permissible in the absence of well-grounded suspicion of crime," Dr. tenBroek said.

"Mass raids conducted by social workers without specific evidence of criminal offense do not stand upon better legal footing than similar raids conducted by the police.

"And whether they are conducted by the police or by social workers, they do not stand on better legal footing when they are carried out against welfare clients than when brought against a random selection of taxpayers, county supervisors, university professors or newspapermen," he added.

The state welfare official and blind leader asserted that "the problems from which these needy families suffer -- poverty and unemployment, race prejudice and family disruption -- are not to be solved by such procedures as these.

"The underprivileged cannot be rehabilitated by further undermining their privileges and those of others in the community," Dr. tenBroek said.

His was one of many voices raised in the state against the county welfare raids, which have drawn strong opposition from the California Social Workers Organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Alameda County Central Labor Council, and other groups.

The Labor Council's executive committee voted to support the fight of the East Bay Municipal Employees Union to seek reinstatement of the blind social worker, Parrish, who had declined to join the official raiding parties. The union's local said it would appeal his firing and ask the county board of supervisors and civil service commission to "right the wrong that has been committed."

NEW HOPE FOR DISABLED SENIOR CITIZENS

One fine morning recently -- according to a report in PERFORMANCE, "The Story of the Handicapped" -- some 20 men and women converged from subway and bus to report at their new jobs in a converted factory near Coney Island.

As they took their assigned places before different products ranging from hardware to toys and plastics, the similarity of their state in life became interestingly apparent, even to themselves. A shy glance past his workbench brought each employee to realize that he shared much in common with his fellow workers. Every one there was more than 60 years old and every one was severely disabled.

This pilot neighborhood workshop, with each person assigned to subcontracts according to his special skills or preference, is designed to evaluate the response to regular employment of disabled men and women in the older age group. An earlier project had demonstrated that disabled older workers could be successfully re-trained and placed in employment -- so conclusively, in fact, that the scene at Coney Island was being repeated in Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri; St. Paul and Mankato, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Miami, Florida; and the Virgin Islands.

Through such rehabilitation projects, supported by grants from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, an older disabled person is able to achieve self-respect and dignity during the later years of his life.

Older persons suffer disproportionately from chronic illness and physical disability. Diseases of the heart and related cardiovascular illnesses are responsible for most of the disability among the aging. Of the estimated million or more partially paralyzed persons in the country, a majority are more than 50 years old. The incidence of mental illness increases with age, and 25 percent of the patients in mental hospitals are more than 65 years old. Arthritis incapacitates many aging people. Two-thirds of the country's blind people are 45 years old or more, and 56 percent of our deaf persons are above that age.

Usually the economic condition of older persons makes it more difficult for them to bear the costs of prolonged medical services. They become an increasing burden to their children with the consequent loss of dignity and independence. As the lifespan has increased, chronic disease has increased proportionately with the older persons as the particular targets. Because further extension of the lifespan is inevitable, a still further increase in chronic disease is inevitable, with all its burdensome economic aspects.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has estimated that about 1.5 million of the 5 million long-term disabled persons of 45 years or more -- among them 115,000 persons of 65 years and beyond -- would be feasible for vocational rehabilitation through the nationwide State-Federal program, which emphasizes employment. The public program of vocational rehabilitation is employing fresh endeavors, new concepts, and new methods for restoration of older

persons to productive work to enable them to lead fuller and more useful lives, and reduce the enormous toll of dependency on families, on institutions, and on the public purse.

Under the rehabilitation program, there has been since 1945 a steady increase each year in the number of older disabled individuals rehabilitated into gainful employment. In 1945, for instance, 7,344 disabled persons 45 and older were rehabilitated. This represented 17.5 percent of the total rehabilitated that year. In 1952, there were 16,034 disabled persons in this age group rehabilitated, and the number jumped to 21,086 by 1957. Last year 26,900 persons 45 years of age and older were rehabilitated, representing 29.1 percent of the total.

A wide diversity of disability problems is found among older disabled people. To obtain more knowledge about them, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is helping to support research and demonstration projects, such as the one in Coney Island. Since 1954, the Office has provided financial assistance amounting to almost \$7 million for 71 projects. All of these projects are showing new methods and techniques for dealing with the problems of disability among older workers.

A number of projects are seeking to assist older people confined to institutions and nursing homes to become as self-sufficient as possible. For some, this would mean resumption of a normal place in community life. The University of Michigan achieved excellent success in a project designed to evaluate and develop the work potential of long-term patients confined to county medical care facilities. A 72-year-old woman who hadn't worked in 5 years, arose from her wheelchair and walked.

These experimental projects are proving one thing: worthwhile work can be done by mature but handicapped people who are granted their deepest wish, to be allowed to live useful lives.

In the spring of 1961, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation sponsored two 1-week conferences at the State University of Iowa focused on counseling the older disabled worker. Planned as short-term training workshops, these meetings were designed to increase the understanding and skill of counselors and other rehabilitation personnel who serve older disabled persons. Emphasis was placed on medical and psychiatric evaluation of older workers and patients,

counseling techniques in working with this age group, utilization of community services and resources, and employment problems and placement procedures to be utilized with older clients. A report, Counseling the Older Disabled Worker, is now available from S. Roberta Church, Consultant on Aging, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Room 3516 North Building, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C.

MICHIGAN LEADER HITS BLIND TEACHING PLAN

A \$4,000 research project on "Programmed Learning Materials for the Blind" to be conducted at Western Michigan University has been criticized by a leader of the Michigan Council of the Blind as a reflection of stereotyped and prejudiced notions concerning the abilities of blind persons.

Sandford E. Allerton, board member and past president of the state blind organization, voiced his criticism in a letter to a university official following a report of the federally-supported project in the Kalamazoo GAZETTE.

The newspaper account noted that the idea for the work had resulted from discussions between personnel of the university's Center for Orientation and Mobility, the Special Education division of the School of Education, and Dean George G. Mallinson of the School of Graduate Studies.

In their surveys the officials found no mention of the use of "programmed materials for the blind," the paper reported. Observations in classrooms for blind children were said to have shown that "a teacher must spend about 10 times as much time per [blind] student as would be necessary with sighted students. Therefore, the WMU investigators feel that any learning procedure that would reduce the time needed for individual instruction while still accomplishing the desired aims is worthwhile," the article stated.

According to the newspaper account, the university investigators "hope to determine formats of stimulus and response modes most suitable for using programmed materials with the blind, the

personal factors of the blind person which may influence the use of programmed materials, the optimal length of the program, and achievement of blind students using some form of programmed learning."

Allerton's letter, addressed to Dean Mallinson, follows:

"Dear Sir:

"As a qualified blind person I feel that I should make a few remarks concerning the article in today's GAZETTE about your research project for teaching the blind. I say "qualified" since I have been totally blind essentially all my life, have graduated from the University of Chicago (1921), and have had many years' experience working at a job. Through my associations with the Michigan Council of the Blind and The National Federation of the Blind, I have become acquainted with hundreds of blind people all over the country. I have some first-hand knowledge of their educational experiences and other problems.

"The observation that it takes ten times as long to teach a blind person as a sighted person suggests that something really serious is wrong with the program used. Certainly it doesn't fit in with my own experience of over forty years ago, in which I and other blind children attended regular classes with sighted children. The reaction of blind children was quite normal, and they didn't require so much extra attention.

"I can't help being annoyed and puzzled by the statement of aims of your study. What are "formats of stimulus and response modes?" Pedagogy is important, but the basic principles of teaching blind youngsters are really quite simple and have been known and practiced for many years. There are over a thousand blind students in U.S. colleges today, as a result.

"It may interest you to know that most educated blind people wish that their sighted brethren approached their problems from the blind person's point of view. All too often, the actions and attitudes of sighted educators and welfare workers are based on ill-founded presumptions and reek of paternalism. As a case in point, it is absurd to assume that sighted people can most efficiently teach the long-cane walking method; yet we have only recently witnessed public demonstrations of this fallacious notion. My wife and I laughed at the spectacle of a sighted teacher showing blindfolded prospective

teachers to avoid the pillars at the Art Center by counting steps! Of course, it is already mistakenly presumptuous to believe that being blindfolded is anything near equivalent to being blind. I learned the method of long-cane walking from another blind man in about ten minutes, and while I may not have mastered all the details and finesses, I get around town just fine with it. To insist that a background of many college courses is required to teach something as simple as this is patently absurd.

"In general, the blind are anxious to help themselves, although they are also grateful for enlightened aid from sighted persons. Naturally they are interested when projects of this sort are announced, and can only plead that the investigation be guided by a realistic understanding of their problems, and that these precious funds be spent in a manner which will help them rather than merely perpetuate bureaucracy and paternalism.

Sincerely yours,

Sandford E. Allerton"

PROGRESS IN REVERSE

By James B. Garfield

(Editor's note: Mr. Garfield is secretary of the California Council of the Blind. He was the subject of a biographical profile, "Success Story of an Old Trouper," by Anthony Mannino, which appeared in the February, 1962, issue of THE BLIND AMERICAN.)

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is more demanding than was the prophet Joshua. He bade the sun to stand still. They demand that our welfare program turn the entire calendar backward. "Backward, turn backward, Oh time in your flight. Make me a child again, then see my plight."

Scrambling the welfare agencies all under one head and all into

one category is like turning back the calendar to the little red schoolhouse where all the students -- pre-school, kindergarten, primary, and secondary -- were in the same one-room school building under one teacher.

Specialized education under specialized teachers is far better, both for student and teacher, and certainly better for our economy. Likewise specialized welfare, with specialized case workers, is better for the recipient and for the welfare department -- and certainly better for our economy. It strives to lift the able-bodied aid recipient into self-sufficiency and independence.

The return to scrambled welfare is as unjustified as would be a return to the little red schoolhouse. Who dreams these nightmares? Won't someone please wake him up?

IOWA'S BLIND "AT THE CROSSROADS"

The blind people of Iowa are currently proving "that at the crossroads of independence and dependence the road of independence is a practical and possible choice," according to the 1962 Annual Report recently released by the Iowa Commission for the Blind.

The state agency, which administers all major welfare programs for Iowa's blind with the exception of public assistance, graphically stressed the "crossroads" theme throughout its well-illustrated report on state progress in such fields as vocational rehabilitation, orientation and adjustment training, vending stand operation, home teaching, home industries, braille library facilities, and a variety of educational and instructional services.

The cover of the printed report pictured a typical blind trainee, against a "crossroads" background, in three roles made possible for her by rehabilitation services: those of independent travel, home-making activity, and secretarial employment. Her story was summarized on the inside cover as follows:

"Two Years Ago - Newly blind; fear; loss of job; no financial

security; dependence.

"One Year Ago - Receiving training at Center for Blind in Des Moines; learning new techniques; meeting new people; new hope.

"Today - A husband, busy and full participation in community activities, such as square dancing, etc.; a home of her own, preparation of meals, vacuuming sofas, etc.; a job as secretary in office of insurance company; complete success."

Commission Director Kenneth Jernigan described his agency's publication as "a report of the blind of Iowa at the crossroads," which shows that they are "definitely capable of entering fully competitive society if given proper training and opportunity."

Pointing out that the independent way for blind people has been provided by the Commission through its programs of rehabilitation and related services, the report declared: "It is no longer for Iowa merely a faith in blind people; it is now a fact that many blind Iowans are independent, self-sustaining citizens. It is also a fact that there are hundreds more who need and want these programs so vital to independence."

In fiscal 1962 the Iowa Commission rehabilitated a record total of 50 blind Iowans, Jernigan reported. He added that the agency's goal is "to have every employable blind person in the state working at his full potential -- whether complete or partial self-support."

Record highs were also announced in the state's vending stand program, both in terms of operator earnings and of new stands established. "Now there are 16 such concessions in Iowa, but with a full program there ought to be at least 30. The average earnings per operator were just over \$230 per month," according to the report.

Newest and fastest growing division of the state program was said to be the Iowa library for the blind housed in the Commission's Des Moines building. More than 5,000 books per month were being sent by the library to over 1,300 active readers or borrowers as of last June, the report stated, with further rapid growth expected next year. "It is fully anticipated that by the end of fiscal 1963 there will be over 1,600 readers with a monthly circulation over 7,000."

Three types of books are distributed by the library for the blind:

braille books, talking book records, and taped books. "Also, within the limit of Commission resources the library will produce for a reader, either on braille or on tape, any book he might reasonably request," the report said.

The Commission's remodeled Orientation and Adjustment Center, which last June ended its first year of full operation, was reported to focus its efforts on teaching "a blind person two things: the necessary skills to compete in a predominantly sighted world and the necessary attitudes to overcome public misunderstanding and discrimination."

Regular courses in the Center curriculum include travel with the new long cane, braille reading and writing, attitudes and techniques, typing, personal grooming, homemaking and management, shop, physical education, library use and techniques, telephone switchboard training, food merchandising and small restaurant operation, and vocational planning and exploration.

"After finishing training at the Center, a blind person either goes directly to a job, continues with specialized training in preparation for a job, returns to the home community as a housewife, or learns vocational skills in an on-the-job training situation. He meets his crossroads and finds the way to successful living in a predominantly sighted world."

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE - AFTER 15 YEARS

The fifteenth anniversary of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped -- observed last fall along with National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week -- was a time for reminiscence and stock-taking on the part of those who have been instrumental in the growth of the committee and the cause which it symbolizes.

In a joint statement released by the committee's Associate Members (federal agency administrators and Cabinet heads concerned with rehabilitation and employment), emphasis was given to "the accel-

eration of our Nation's economic growth, inextricably joined with the extension of equality of job opportunity" over the decade and a half following the birth of the President's Committee.

"We have seen great strides made in creating a favorable climate for the acceptance of handicapped workers, due in large measure to the observable performance of the handicapped themselves," the government officials remarked.

"Our free enterprise system is well suited for permitting the skills and abilities of a worker, despite his handicap, to be recognized. Moreover, there has been a growing recognition that the principle of fair play, so basic a precept of our democracy, requires that every individual be given a fair chance for selection and advancement in employment for which he has the capacity to perform."

The opportunity-minded committee, initiated by President Truman and since warmly supported by both President Eisenhower and President Kennedy, dropped the qualification "physically" from its title in 1961 as a result of increasing activity and interest in employment of the mentally retarded and mentally restored.

The effectiveness of the committee's efforts in widening the horizons of opportunity for all groups of handicapped persons -- whether lame, halt or blind -- was underscored by Dr. Howard A. Rusk, veteran rehabilitation expert, in a NEW YORK TIMES article comparing public attitudes toward employing the disabled 15 years ago with those current today.

In 1947 the committee's primary concern was the employment of disabled veterans, Dr. Rusk recalled; but today the problems of the civilian disabled are of far greater concern. He pointed out that perhaps the most significant change in employment practices over the intervening period is that today we are successfully rehabilitating into employment numbers of disabled individuals "who were considered unemployable then."

When the committee was first brought into being, "there were few State vocational rehabilitation agencies that would consider providing services for a person with paraplegia, paralysis of the legs and lower part of the body," he said. Although finding the right job for the severely disabled is still difficult, "it is now commonplace to find paraplegics at work in all types of jobs."

He observed that another significant change in attitudes over the past decade and a half "is our increasing recognition that the psychological and social adjustment of the handicapped person is frequently a far more important factor in successful job placement than the physical disability."

Noting that in one recent year (1960 to 1961) the number of handicapped individuals employed by the federal government had nearly doubled -- from 4,706 to 8,648 -- Dr. Rusk asserted that a part of this increase had come from the appointment by the government of some 3,500 coordinators responsible for employment of the handicapped in each federal agency.

The anniversary of the President's Committee was also marked recently by the publication of a brochure bearing the title, "A 15-Year Chronicle," with a foreword by Major General Melvin J. Maas, chairman of the committee since 1954.

The brochure traced the history of the committee from the inauguration in 1945 of the yearly observed National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, an idea conceived by Paul A. Strachan, then president of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped.

It was on September 15, 1947, at the instigation of President Truman, that Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach called together representatives from national organizations representing labor, industry and information media as the first step of a movement that led to formation of the President's committee.

"The President's Committee was born in September, 1947, but it had to grow, to develop, to make itself felt and heard throughout America," the committee brochure stated.

"From the start, the Committee received the full support of every segment of American life -- Government, private enterprise, labor, the professions, the mass media, the complete spectrum of the nation.

"And slowly but steadily the word spread and grew in intensity: 'It's good business to hire the handicapped. It's good business to hire the handicapped.'"

NEW LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATES

Recent legislative moves at the state level which have significance for the welfare and security of the blind include the following:

A special study commission has recommended to New Jersey's Governor Richard Hughes that the state's three vocational rehabilitation programs, including rehabilitation of the blind, be "unified within a single agency" -- in the interests of "consolidation and centralization." (A full report on this ominous development for the blind of the Garden State will be published in these columns next month.)

In Kansas, Governor Anderson has made recommendations in his message to the state legislature which would bring about changes in aid categories for the blind, as well as for dependent children, the aged and the totally disabled. He also has requested a law for the appointment of legal representatives for persons found misusing welfare funds.

Both branches of the Missouri legislature gave their approval last month to bills increasing the maximum monthly welfare payment by five dollars -- thus increasing benefits for aged, disabled and blind recipients from \$65 to \$70 per month. State Welfare Director Proctor N. Carter said that the measures would increase the state's total welfare outlays by nearly half a million dollars.

New Mexico's Acting State Welfare Director Margaret Hart has announced the inauguration of a "new approach" to rehabilitation in public welfare, according to the bulletin FROM THE STATE CAPITALS. New welfare training sessions for field supervisors of the state's 28 county offices are reportedly underway at the University of New Mexico, emphasizing the analysis of causes leading to dependency and to social, emotional and economic problems on the part of recipients of public assistance.

Miss Hart was reported to have said the rehabilitative approach has demonstrated its usefulness and effectiveness through experience in special projects. She stated that the program can be especially effective if additional workers are added to the staff at the county level to give attention to deep-seated problems of families that have been dependent for years.

In West Virginia, a plan to rehabilitate disabled persons on the state's assistance rolls was recommended to the state legislature by Governor Barron, who asked for legislation permitting his administration to institute panels of physicians to evaluate and review applications by persons reportedly disabled, and to supervise treatment of those found actually incapable of working.

Among other things, a sheltered workshop program was specifically proposed by the governor to be established in the state. He asserted that a county medical society study had shown a considerable number of those classified as disabled to possess "at least limited work capacities. Many of these persons could be given varying degrees of training by the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, with a constant upgrading to their highest potential."

BLIND PROVE SKILL AT TRADE FAIR

(Editor's note: The following article is reprinted from the January, 1963, issue of PERFORMANCE, monthly publication of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.)

The crowd milled around a group of people busy putting together a conveyor system. It was similar to other skate wheel conveyor systems used to move goods around a firm or factory, but there was something about this activity that caught the eye of the passerby.

The men and women putting the conveyor system together were blind. Yet, this did not prevent them from speedily accomplishing their assigned tasks.

This demonstration took place at the American Pavilion at the recent Thessaloniki International Trade Fair in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The firm which supplied the conveyor system was the Alvey-Ferguson Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, a longtime exhibitor at International Trade Fairs.

Mrs. Jayne Spain, President of the Company, went to Thessaloniki to give the men and women, who were students at the Thessaloniki School for the Blind, the special instruction required to set up the conveyor system.

Before going to Thessaloniki, Mrs. Spain received special instruction in teaching the handicapped from the Cincinnati Association of the Blind. While blindfolded, she was taught how the blind learn to assemble the various parts of her company's conveyor systems.

More than 600,000 people viewed the American Pavilion and the conveyor system. The exhibit won wide acclaim from officials of the Greek Government as well as those who viewed it. The Alvey-Ferguson exhibit clearly demonstrated the capabilities of properly trained and properly placed handicapped persons and how America makes full use of its most vital resource--its manpower.

Working closely with vocational rehabilitation groups, and Employment Service officials, the Cincinnati firm regularly employs blind and other handicapped persons in assembling its conveyor systems.

The U.S. Exposition at the Thessaloniki fair was sponsored by the Commerce Department's Office of International Trade Fairs. This was the sixth appearance in 7 years at the annual Greek fair. More than 100 firms demonstrated their products and equipment carrying out the theme of the American show, "Resource Development for a Better Life."

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Capps Earns Service Award. Donald C. Capps, Second Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind, was honored in December with the presentation of an award "for 15 years' efficient, faithful and loyal service" as assistant manager of the claims department and manager of individual policy claim section with the Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company, Columbia, South Carolina. The service award was presented by the firm's president, Edwin F. Averyt, at a special Christmas luncheon signallizing the event.

The citation accompanying the award stated in part: "Don has done a superior and faithful job for the Company, in spite of the vision handicap which he has overcome in remarkable fashion, and which he has never allowed to circumscribe his life, family and community activities, or efficiency in performance of his very responsible job. In fact, he has always been noted for his tremendous volume output in number of claims handled (and handled correct and with good judgment).

"Mr. Capps has done outstanding work as President of The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind. He has been greatly influential in making the organization strong and useful, and bringing about public understanding and support

"We take a reflected glory in Don Capps -- and are extremely proud of the tremendous contribution which he has made in this state, and over the whole country, toward the progress and betterment of his fellows."

* * * * *

Berkeley's Blind Wrestlers Unbeaten. The wrestling team of the California School for the Blind, Berkeley, won again in early January to remain undefeated in 25 consecutive meets. There was one tie in February, 1961, with Novato High School.

The leading wrestler on the Berkeley team is Carl Williams of San Bernardino, who has won 25 bouts in a row, including 10 this season. Dave Kallinger of Riverside, with 9-0, and Tom Treher of Arcadia, 8-1, are also outstanding.

The California School for the Blind was one of the first schools in the state to field an interscholastic wrestling team. The present athletic director, Dr. Charles Buell, introduced the sport at CSB in 1946. Since that time, the blind boys have traveled all over Northern California, winning 105 meets and losing 33. Three blind wrestlers have won State High School Championships and three more have placed second. In December, 1962, a team from CSB traveled to Tucson and defeated the Arizona School for the Blind by a score of 18 to 6.

* * * * *

Ohioan Wins Award. Robert Oberhouse, member of the Ohio

Council of the Blind, received the award for Meritorious Service of both the President's and Governor's Committees on Employment of the Handicapped at the 1962 Ohio Welfare Conference, according to a recent Bulletin of the OCB. Oberhouse, a home teacher in Ohio, is a graduate of Bowling Green University and active in the Blind Veterans Association, the Bowling Green Lions Club, the County Crippled Childrens Society and the American Legion.

* * * * *

Braille Poster Aids Blind. Cross-country circulation of a poster in braille designed to assist the blind employees of sheltered workshops has been announced by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

The poster was formally presented last November by the Cabinet official to Peter J. Salmon, director of the Industrial Home for the Blind, Brooklyn, New York. Salmon also is a member of the legislative committee of National Industries for the Blind and chairman of the Department of Labor's Sheltered Workshop Advisory Committee.

Employers reportedly are required by Fair Labor Standards Act regulations to place a poster explaining the law "in a conspicuous place where it can be observed readily by the handicapped clients and others in the workshop." The use of braille was said to have been decided upon as an effective means of informing the blind of the conditions required for their employment in sheltered workshops under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

It was not indicated whether the poster will also be mandatory reading for employers to assure their compliance with existing minimum wage, hour and other requirements of work in the sheltered shops. Although certificates of exemption are commonly obtained by workshop managers to avoid stipulations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, various organizations of the blind (notably the National Federation of the Blind and its affiliated state associations) have long sought to reform the submarginal pay scales and antiquated working conditions in the nation's sheltered employment centers.

The Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Department of Labor have reported that there were 582 certified sheltered workshops at the close of fiscal 1962, of which approximately 100 are primarily designed to serve blind workers. The surveys also reportedly show more persons with severe handicaps

receiving such employment than in previous years.

The braille poster was developed in cooperation with the Division for the Blind of the Library of Congress.

* * * * *

Radar "Eyes" for the Blind. Radar "eyes" based on the echosounding system used by bats may soon be adapted for use by the blind, according to reports of research being conducted in both England and the United States.

St. Dunstan's, the famed British institute for war-blinded men and women, claims the revolutionary new guidance aid was invented by Dr. L. A. Kay of Birmingham University.

In a brief account of research developments, THE WHITE CANE (monthly publication of the Washington State Association of the Blind) reports that the device has three main parts -- a container with electrical components, a hand-held "probe" resembling an electric torch which is pointed by the blind person in the direction of the desired echo, and earpieces which fit into the ear.

Aerospace Industries Association of America, Inc., has declared that the invention enables a blindfolded person to detect and make his way around such objects as cars, trees and other persons -- as well as to locate an open door and pass through without touching it.

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TITLE 16: RETREAT INTO BEDLAM

The full extent of the destructive blow about to be dealt to blind recipients of public assistance by the new joint category known technically as "title XVI" has now been officially disclosed through issuance of a series of "questions and answers" by the federal administrators to state agencies.

The tersely worded ultimatum--incorporated in a State Letter (No. 616) distributed in January from the Bureau of Family Services--confronts blind Americans with the "moment of truth" regarding their distinctive aid program under the new order inaugurated by the 1962 amendments.

The disastrous consequences for the blind of this so-called "optional" provision for a combined state plan of aid to the blind, the aged and the disabled were accurately defined last October in a legislative bulletin of the National Federation of the Blind, published by THE BLIND AMERICAN under the title, "'Snare 16': The Worse Comes to the Worst." But in its January directive to the states, the federal agency has gone much farther in spelling out the details of the impending disaster.

All the spurious pretenses of protection and consideration for the blind and other client groups, which formerly veiled the true nature of the combined aid title under a layer of soothing syrup, have been stripped away as the federal officials have gained confidence in their power to impose this categorical bedlam upon the states and upon their needy clients of welfare.

The new state letter makes clear that a "common standard" governing need and payment under title XVI will be definitely enforced across the board--with the certain result that in numerous states Aid to the Blind cash grants will be drastically reduced.

But the bulldozer of the common standard will wreak its leveling effects far beyond the area of "need and payment." It will impose on all alike the same standard of "resources that can be held" (such as a home, cash reserves and so on) -- which means that in states where separate and higher standards have been achieved by the blind (e.g., in Minnesota and Nevada among many others) these gains will be cancelled and abolished, and numbers of blind recipients may find themselves suddenly cut off from aid.

Residence requirements also must be identical for all groups of recipients under the catch-all title--as must provisions for relatives' responsibility, for liens or recovery of property, for allocation of income to dependents, and for other factors once treated separately and regarded as variable according to the distinctive characteristics of the three aided groups.

The supposed "legal basis" for this punitive and discriminatory requirement of a common standard, as cited by the official letter, is nothing more nor less than a provision in the law calling for "reasonable standards, consistent with the objectives of this title, for determining eligibility for and the extent of aid or assistance under the plan"--along with a vague reference to other unspecified requirements mainly concerned with "equitable treatment."

Since on the face of it a common standard is both unreasonable and inequitable with respect to the blind, and moreover is inconsistent with the self-support objectives of the title, it is evident that there is neither "legal basis" nor reasonable justification for this deliberate retreat into a welfare bedlam--in which "the lame, the halt, and the blind" are indiscriminately confined and confused.

Among other things the official question-and-answer bulletin discloses that:

-- A State which once decides to try out title XVI is committed to it forever; it can never terminate that plan and resume operation of a separate plan or plans under title I, X, or XIV.

-- Additional allowances to the blind for such things as clothing and grooming, necessitated by the special needs of blindness, will in effect be disallowed in the interest of "uniformity" (unless they are to be extended equally to the aged and disabled, which by definition they cannot be).

-- The four states which have a separate agency or commission administering aid to the blind are exempted from the common-standard requirement for blind recipients under title XVI--which produces the conclusion that blind people in these four states have distinctive needs and requirements of their own, but blind people in the other 46 states do not.

The question-and-answer portion of the State Letter is as follows:

TITLE XVI - AID TO THE AGED, BLIND OR DISABLED, OR SUCH
AID AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED

Questions and Answers

A. The New Plan

1. What plan requirements must the State include in filing a State plan for its new program under title XVI?

Answer. -- All plan requirements and other provisions in title XVI must be included in the new State plan. Some of the effective dates in title XVI are different from those in the other titles. In developing its new plan the State will need to check carefully with the provisions of the new title.

2. If a State has a program of MAA and wishes to continue it with Federal financial participation, must it be included in the title XVI plan?

Answer. -- Yes.

3. If a State has no MAA program or APTD, must it be initiated in order to have an approvable plan under title XVI?

Answer. -- No. If a State does not have an approved plan for a program under one of the separate titles, such program does not have to be established in order to receive a grant under title XVI. If the State wishes to receive a Federal grant for a program under one of the other adult titles it must be brought within the plan approved under title XVI. Thus, the State's decision to receive a grant under title XVI precludes it from initiating an adult program under the separate titles. A State may at any time drop one of the adult groups included under title XVI, but it can only receive Federal grants for those included under that title.

B. Administration and Fiscal

1. May a State plan under title XVI provide for variation in State-local sharing of the non-Federal share of costs by types of aid?

Answer. -- If it is necessary for a State to propose variation in the State-local sharing in costs for specified groups under a new title XVI plan, each such plan will be examined on its own merits. It is recognized that some States will need legislation to simplify the State-local sharing of the non-Federal share of costs of assistance and/or administration, which now differ from program to program. The fact that there may be a different basis for State-local financing for groups of needy individuals cannot be permitted to affect adversely those aspects necessary to equitable administration of the program, such as State-wide operation under a plan that is mandatory on all political subdivisions of the State, use of State funds to pay a substantial part of the total costs of assistance and administration, and administration under standards, policies and methods subject to rules and regulations of the State agency.

2. Does the present restriction on Federal financial participation for assistance provided concurrently under OAA and MAA still apply under title XVI?

Answer. -- Yes. In addition, under title XVI the restriction extends to all recipients of the new adult category as well as to aid to families with dependent children. That is, an MAA payment cannot be claimed for Federal participation if it was for medical services rendered when an individual was a recipient of aid to the aged, blind, or disabled or of aid to families with dependent children.

3. With respect to computing Federal participation, are recipients and payments under MAA combined with all other recipients and payments in the title XVI plan?

Answer. -- No. Federal participation for MAA is computed separately based on the amount of such payments without regard to a recipient count and average maximum payment.

4. May a State, which has received payments under title XVI with respect to a period of operation of its title XVI plan, subsequently terminate that plan and resume operation of a plan under title I, X, or XIV?

Answer. -- No. Section 141(b) of P.L. 87-543 makes it

clear that the State's decision to use the combined title is irrevocable since it precludes Federal grants to the State under any of the assistance titles (other than title IV) for any period after a period for which the State was paid under title XVI.

5. What fiscal effect would result if the State's plan under title XVI is initiated, and the State's plan under title I, X, or XIV is terminated, at a time other than the beginning of a calendar month?

Answer. --Section 141(b) of P.L. 87-543 also prohibits payments to a State under title I, X, or XIV for any period (month) for which the State receives any payments under title XVI. To prevent loss of Federal matching, therefore, a State should terminate its programs under titles I, X, and XIV at the end of a month (e.g., the close of November 30) and begin its title XVI program at the beginning of the next month (e.g., December 1).

C. Need and Payment

1. What is the legal basis for requiring a "common standard" of determining need and payment except for MAA, under title XVI, as interpreted in State Letter No. 582, page M-3?

Answer. --The provision in Section 1602(a) (13), requiring "reasonable standards, consistent with the objectives of this title, for determining eligibility for and the extent of aid or assistance under the plan," and several of the other plan requirements in title XVI are designed to assure equitable treatment and uniform standards for all needy persons covered by the plan. Similar requirements under the separate titles have assured such equity and uniformity only within the individual categories but not between them. To carry out the legislative purpose of combining the adult categories, it is necessary to assure that the same equity and uniformity be extended to all the assistance groups included in the new plan. See also, F. 1, Liens and Recoveries, below.

2. Under the requirement for a "common standard" of determining need and payment under title XVI, does the State have the

option to cite its need materials, including resources policies, now included in one or more of the present separate State plans?

Answer. -- Yes, if the State has evaluated its standards under the separate titles to ensure that that they are "common" when all titles are combined, and that the new standards "fully meet Federal requirements." See State Letter No. 582, page M-2.

3. Can the State have different money amounts for an item for different persons (other than those receiving MAA) who are eligible under the new title; for example, more for food for an aged man than an aged woman, more for a blind adult than a blind child, more for a disabled young adult than for a disabled aged adult, etc. ?

Answer. -- Yes, if the State feels it necessary to make these distinctions and has objectively supported the differences between individuals. Thus, factors that would make a significant difference in assistance needed can be reflected in the new common standard so long as they apply "across the board" in the new plan for all persons, other than those in MAA, with like characteristics.

4. Can a State agency carry over into the new program additional allowances for clothing and grooming formerly included at a higher amount for blind persons only, on the rationale that the handicap of blindness resulted in additional costs?

Answer. -- Yes, so long as the additional allowances are also included for any other individuals, except those under MAA, for whom the handicap of age or disability is likely to result in the same need.

5. Must the State's standard of resources that can be held (i. e., the home, cash reserves, etc.) be the same for all individuals, whether aged (other than MAA), blind or disabled?

Answer. -- Yes, except those necessary for a "self support" plan of a blind individual, see below, question 9. The resources policies governing MAA, however, may be different.

6. Must the same policies governing (a) who is included in the assistance plan, (b) allocation of income to dependents, and (c) support from responsible relatives, apply to all persons, other than recipients of MAA, eligible under the new program?

Answer. --Yes. These policies are part of the "common standard" that governs, except for MAA.

7. Must the four States (Delaware, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Virginia) that have a separate agency administering or supervising the plan for the blind have a "common standard" of determining need and payment under title XVI?

Answer. --No. The plan for the blind may have its own standard where it is administered or supervised by a separate agency since the law specifies that the part of the plan administered or supervised by the blind agency shall be regarded as a separate plan from the rest of the plan for the aged and disabled. As stated in C. 1, however, there must be a common standard under the separate new plan for the aged and disabled.

8. Is there exemption of earned income for all persons eligible under a new plan?

Answer. --No. There is a statutory exemption of earned income for blind individuals of the first \$85 per month plus one-half the earned income in excess of \$85 per month. This is mandatory on the States. There is a different exemption of earned income for "any other" individual "who has attained age 65." This is optional with the States. This exemption governs the first \$50 of earned income for that group. The State may after December 31, 1962, disregard not more than the first \$10 thereof plus one-half of the remainder. A disabled person eligible under title XVI would not be entitled to any exemption of earned income unless he is blind or age 65 or over.

9. Does the provision for also disregarding for a blind individual "for a period not in excess of twelve months, such additional amounts of other income and resources, in the case of an individual who has a plan for achieving self-support approved

by the State agency, as may be necessary for the fulfillment of such plan" also apply to the blind under a new title XVI plan?

Answer. --Yes. Although this provision does not become effective until July 1, 1963 under title X, it is effective with the approval of the State's plan under title XVI.

10. What exemption of income is an individual aged 65 (other than one receiving MAA) and blind entitled to after December 31, 1962, in a State that elects the option of earned income exemption for persons 65 years of age and over, and also elects a plan under title XVI?

Answer. --For an individual who is blind and aged 65 with earned income, under title XVI the State agency shall disregard the first \$85 per month of earned income plus one-half of earned income in excess of \$85 per month, and any additional income and resources, for a period of twelve months, necessary to fulfill a plan for achieving self support.

11. Must the new plan under title XVI provide for taking into consideration "any expenses reasonably attributable to the earning of any such income"?

Answer. --Yes. This plan requirement is effective with the approval of the State's plan. The plan will need to encompass work expenses for all employed recipients, except for recipients of MAA.

12. Can the State's plan have different maximums on the money payment or other different methods of payment reduction (i.e., different percentages of deficit or of requirements) for one group of recipients, for example, the disabled, and not for the aged or blind?

Answer. --No. This is part of the State's "common standard" that governs the determination of need and payment under the single program, except in MAA.

D. Medical Care

1. Must the content of medical care covered by the vendor.

payment be the same for aged (other than MAA), blind and disabled persons eligible under the new plan?

Answer. --Yes.

2. Must the medical services available to recipients of MAA under title XVI be identical with those for other recipients under the new plan?

Answer. --As is true under title I, it remains optional with the State under title XVI to determine whether, and to what extent, it will provide assistance in the form of medical care under its title XVI plan.

3. Since the content of care must be identical for aged (except for MAA), blind or disabled individuals, must the State's fees to physicians, rates for nursing homes, etc., be identical for the same service to an aged (except MAA), blind or disabled person?

Answer. --Yes.

4. Can a title XVI plan which includes MAA be approved if the plan allows MAA to be furnished an individual for a period for which such individual is also a recipient of aid to families with dependent children under the State's title IV program?

Answer. --No. Title XVI makes it a plan requirement that MAA under this title will not be furnished concurrently with AFDC. Such a plan requirement is not applicable where the State does not operate a title XVI program.

5. In a State which initiates an approvable title XVI plan, say on April 1, 1963, are vendor payments made on or after April 1, 1963 for medical services rendered to recipients under title I, (including MAA), X, or XIV prior to April 1, 1963, claimable under title XVI or under title I, X, or XIV?

Answer. --Such payments must be claimed under title XVI as assistance expenditures for the month in which the payments are made and recipients in whose behalf such payments (excluding MAA) are made may be included in the recipient count for such

month if such recipients have not otherwise been counted as recipients under title XVI for such month.

6. If a State initiates a title XVI plan, what accounting is required with respect to pooled funds maintained for title I, X, or XIV at the time of initiation of the title XVI plan?

Answer. -- The pooled fund for title I must be charged with payments for medical services rendered to covered individuals during the period prior to initiation of the title XVI plan. The same is true for a pooled fund under title X or title XIV. Adjustment of prior premium amounts, and of any Federal share thereof, is required if a fund balance exceeds or falls short of the amount required to pay all bills chargeable to the fund. These procedures affecting the separate funds must be followed even though a State elects to initiate a new pooled fund under the new title XVI.

7. If a State which initiates a title XVI plan wishes to operate a pooled fund covering the individuals eligible under the new program (exclusive of MAA), what conditions govern?

Answer. -- In general, the conditions now governing a pooled fund for an assistance program, as set forth in Handbook IV-5693, would also apply to a pooled fund established for recipients under title XVI (exclusive of MAA). Premiums should, of course, be reasonably related to the cost of providing medical services to the groups in the new program.

E. Residence

1. Must any residence requirement be the same for aged persons (other than MAA), blind and disabled persons under the new title XVI plan?

Answer. -- Yes, except that the new plan may provide for residence requirements of shorter duration for persons in special circumstances, such as persons who have lost their sight within the State, or have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of an accident. Many states now have identical residence requirements for all individuals who come

under any of the existing adult categories. States that propose different requirements for any of the group must offer a rationale showing circumstances that lead to such differences. The fact that a State now provides a different residence requirement for one category, e.g., title X, as compared with another category, e.g., title XIV, will not be a sufficient reason for the State to continue the distinction between these groups under the combined plan. MAA may not have any durational requirement under the title XVI plan.

F. Liens and Recoveries

1. Can a State's plan under title XVI contain a recovery or lien provision that applies only to aged individuals?

Answer. --No. If a lien or recovery provision is included in the plan, it must apply in the same way to all individuals, whether aged, blind or disabled. As in title I, however, there are separate rules governing liens in MAA.

2. May a State have a law that places a lien on the property of aged recipients and an identical regulation for a lien on the property of blind or disabled recipients?

Answer. --Yes, so long as the State has the authority to meet the requirements of a "common standard" under title XVI, no question would be raised because some provisions rest on specific provision of law and some on regulation permitted by law.

G. Social Services and Training

1. Is it necessary for a State to provide social services to have its plan under title XVI approved?

Answer. --No. It is not necessary for a State to provide social services, just as it is not necessary for a State to provide such services under title I, X, or XIV.

2. What social services may be included for 75 percent matching under title XVI?

Answer. -- The social services with 75 percent Federal sharing in the cost would, until July 1, 1963, be any of the services specified in the attachment to State Letter No. 587, applicable to title I, X, and XIV. Beginning July 1, 1963, the States will need to provide the social services prescribed by the Secretary--the minimum package--which will also apply to titles I, X, and XIV.

3. May a State claim 75 percent Federal matching in the cost of an approved staff development program under title XVI?

Answer. -- For the period before July 1, 1963, a State may receive the 75 percent Federal matching in the cost of such a program; beginning July 1, 1963, the 75 percent matching will continue if the State is providing the minimum content of social services prescribed by the Secretary.

H. Reporting

1. Will the number of recipients and amount of assistance expenditures under a new plan be reported separately for aged recipients, blind recipients and disabled recipients?

Answer. -- Yes, at least for some period of time. Such data will be needed for program planning, for developing legislative proposals and replies to Congressional inquiries and for public interpretation.

2. What reporting requirements will be specified for the new program?

Answer. -- For the Monthly FS-204, the combined totals will be reported for title XVI for all items pertaining to applications, cases, recipients, and payments that were formerly reported as old-age assistance, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled. Separate reporting on all items will be required monthly for MAA. In addition, the breakdown of the combined totals for title XVI into separate data for the aged, for the blind, and for the disabled will be required monthly for items on total cases receiving assistance, total amount of

assistance payments, amount of money payments, amount of any non-medical vendor payments, and amount of vendor medical payments; and for the county data on recipients and payments reported for June and December of each year. For other periodic reports, the need for breakdowns of data for the separate groups of aged, blind, or disabled is being reviewed. Decisions on requirements about such breakdowns will vary with reports, depending upon the degree to which program services and operations reported on can be significantly different among these three groups.

PROFILE OF A TRAILBLAZER

By Anthony Mannino

(Editor's note: Mr. Mannino is the executive secretary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind.)

Late in 1962, at the Iowa state budget hearings held by the newly-elected governor, one agency head presented the reports and estimates of his department so convincingly that on the following day his presentation was prominently featured by news reporters who had attended the hearings. The official who had so impressed his listeners was Kenneth Jernigan, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, delivering the annual report and budget proposals of the commission. The achievements and plans to which he had given such forceful expression were the climax of a concentrated effort in accomplishing the formidable task accepted by this blind leader in the field of rehabilitation.

On May 6, 1958, a blind man was asked to assume direction of the programs for the blind of an entire state. After many years of efforts by the organized blind to gain consultation and a voice in programs for the blind, it fell to Ken Jernigan to face the double test of proving his own ability as well as the soundness of the philosophy of the

organized blind with respect to rehabilitation and related services.

When Ken stepped into the job, Iowa was dead last in the nation in rehabilitation of the blind. Today it stands in the front ranks of the states in this essential work--a leap forward accomplished in just four years under Ken's direction. His philosophy proclaims that the real problem of blindness is not loss of eyesight, but rather the misunderstanding and lack of information which accompany it. If a blind person has proper training and an opportunity to make use of it, blindness for him is only a physical nuisance. On the basis of his firm belief in these guiding precepts, Jernigan has rapidly built a state program geared to independence rather than dependency, to rehabilitation rather than resignation--and dedicated to the proposition that blind people are inherently normal, potentially equal, and thoroughly competent to lead their own lives and make their own way in competitive society.

And he has proved his case, with resounding success.

To understand the success of this bold program, and the man responsible for it, we must go back a generation--into the hills of Tennessee. The Jernigan family had lived in Tennessee for years; but the time came in the 1920's when economic pressures drove many of the back-country farmers into the cities. Kenneth's father was one of those who sought work in the factories in order to earn enough to return to his farm. He chose the automobile industry of Detroit; and it was there Ken was born in 1926.

The new baby had scarcely been made comfortable in his crib when the family moved back to the farm in Tennessee. Somehow, modern conveniences and motorized farm machinery had not found their way to this edge of the Cumberland plateau, which was only fifty miles southeast of Nashville and almost completely inhabited by Anglo-Saxon people. They still clung to their ancient culture and their more or less primitive dwellings. Even today, the mule-drawn plow has not entirely left the scene. Corn, hay and milk were the chief agricultural products which gave this industrious folk their livelihood. Generation followed generation in the same pattern of life and endeavor.

But little Kenneth was different from the other folk. He had been born blind. However, this did not seem to create any great problem or concern in the Jernigan household. The child received a typical upbringing, and as he grew older he assumed a few of the many chores which had to be done about the farm. Some of the heavier tasks he shared with his older brother; but bringing in wood for the stove and fireplaces, and stacking board-lumber which his father had shaped,

were among his earliest prideful accomplishments. Playmates were few, besides his brother, but they all included Kenneth in their games. He recalls that some of the games were modified a little so that he could join the fun.

In January 1933, at six years of age, Kenneth was taken to Nashville to be enrolled at the Tennessee School for the Blind. It was like going into another world--suddenly faced with what seemed gigantic buildings, strange foods, mysterious steam heat and electricity. Accustomed to getting up early, the youngster wandered away from the sleeping quarters on the very first morning and proceeded to get utterly lost. Unable to find his way back to the dormitory, he finally gave up and stretched out on the floor of one of the rooms he had wandered into--to wait until someone found him. It was a miserable beginning for a boy fresh from a comfortable home environment.

But Ken liked school and the world it opened up for his growing mind. Now he could read books, books and more books, all by himself. In preschool years, he had always enjoyed having books read to him; and his first expressed desire at the school was to learn to read and write. He was not aware that it would have to be in braille, and his first efforts to cope with the strange system were discouraging. In spite of his intense eagerness for reading and writing, Ken failed both of these subjects that first year. After that, he never failed either of them again. Today he is one of the fastest braille readers in the country; and his love for books and reading burns as brightly as ever.

There is one phase of Ken's education at the T.S.B. which he now wishes might have been different--or might not have been at all. That was the emphasis placed on the study of music. From his own experience as well as his adult observation, he holds the firm opinion that musical training should not be imposed upon students who show little interest or talent for it. But the tradition at the school in his day, as at most other schools for the blind even today, demanded that every student be drilled in some form of music, whatever his lack of talent or interest.

Tradition must be served; and Ken found himself spending long hours of tedious study with the violin, beginning with the second grade. After three years, he "graduated" into the band with a trombone; and yet was stuck with the violin for another two years. In the band he soon forsook the "tailgate" (trombone) in favor of the alto horn, then (in desperate hope) the cornet, then the baritone horn--and finally

a disastrous fling at the drums. He was quickly relegated back to the brass section--on the assumption, apparently, that he might have little talent but possessed plenty of brass. At long last, recognizing his profound lack of aptitude, Kenneth resigned from the band. As he recalls the event today, it was a great relief not only to him but also to B. P. "Cap" Rice, the bandleader!

Meanwhile, he had dropped the violin lessons and shifted to the piano. Here, again, the effort turned out to be a waste of time because he was more interested in the mechanics of the piano than in its musical potential. When he resorted to taking the big instrument apart instead of playing it, the teacher was truly convinced that Ken would never be a musician.

The world had lost another hornblower--but it gained a craftsman. In 1944, while still in high school, Ken started to make and sell furniture. Using the money he earned on his father's farm during summers, he bought tools and hardware. The logs were on the farm and the sawmill nearby, so this was a practical venture for an ambitious young man. He proceeded to manufacture tables, smoking-stands and floor lamps of original design. But he dared not attempt to do the staining and varnishing, because he had been led to believe that a blind person could not manage such delicate work. Only later did Ken learn that he could indeed do this work himself, and do it well.

This experience furnished further proof to Ken Jernigan that the blind individual must avoid the pitfalls of premature acceptance of "realistic" advice as to the limitations of his abilities and capabilities. He firmly believes that orientation centers for the blind can render a most important service if they will teach and practice the basic truth that, given the opportunity, the average blind person can hold the average job in the average business or industry.

Young Mr. Jernigan graduated from high school in 1945 and immediately petitioned the state rehabilitation service for the chance to prepare himself for a career in law. He was advised against it. That fall, after a rugged six-week bout with appendicitis, he matriculated at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in Cookeville. He did not find there all the encouragement he needed and hoped for; but the now strong and independent young man, who had already taken a whirl at professional wrestling, was not to be talked into negative horizons or limited objectives. His hunger for knowledge was altogether too compelling and his love of books too deep. His scholastic ability soon produced high grades, and the pattern of his college life was formed.

But it was not all study and lessons. Throwing himself into campus activities from the outset, Ken was soon elected to office in his class organization and to important positions in other student clubs. The college debating team especially attracted his attention, and he took part in some 25 intercollegiate debates. He became president of the Speech Activities Club and a member of Pi Kappa Delta speech fraternity. In 1948, at the Southeastern Conference of the Pi Kappa Delta competition held at the University of South Carolina, Ken won first prize in extemporaneous speaking and original oratory.

In his junior year he was nominated as one of two candidates for student-body president. He lost in a very close election, but the very next year regained his political prestige by backing his room-mate for a campus-wide office and winning. In his senior year at Tennessee Poly, he was named to the honored list of "Who's Who in Colleges and Universities."

During his undergraduate days Ken started a vending business by selling candy, cigarettes and chewing-gum out of his room. Later on he purchased a vending machine and, with permission gained from the college president, installed it in the science building. Before finishing college he had expanded the business to an impressive string of vending machines placed in other buildings. Upon graduation, Ken sold this profitable business to a fellow student, an ambitious sophomore named John Taylor--today the director of rehabilitation with the Iowa Commission for the Blind and a past president of the National Federation of the Blind.

After receiving his B.A. in social science with a minor in English, from T.P.I., Ken went directly for graduate work to Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. There he majored in English and minored in history. This time his campus activities were centered upon the literary magazines. He accomplished a great deal of writing of articles and editorials, and became editor of a new literary publication. Meanwhile, he received his Master of Arts degree in the winter quarter of 1949, but remained to finish the school year with further studies.

The following fall young Jernigan returned to the Tennessee School for the Blind, this time as a teacher in the high school English department. The renewed personal contact with blind students, their aspirations and problems, stirred his determination to give them counseling to the best of his ability--and toward bringing out the best of their abilities. Although he had achieved success with his own education, it was not in the field he really wanted to pursue. He could

not forget that before entering college his deep desire to become an attorney had been smashed as not "feasible" by a traditionally minded rehabilitation officer. Ken discovered later--too late--that the rehabilitation man had been far from correct in his stand. Blind persons were then studying law; others were already lawyers, and the field of law was not closed but wide open to trained blind individuals.

Ken vows today that he will never make this mistake in giving counsel to blind students. "We in rehabilitation have no right to make the choice for anybody as to what his vocation should be, when that person is eager and motivated to try in a field of his choice," he maintains.

After he had mastered the routines of teaching and settled into various school activities, Ken became interested in organizational work with the blind. He joined the Nashville chapter of the then Tennessee Association for the Blind (which later became the Tennessee Federation of the Blind). He was elected to the vice presidency of the state affiliate in 1950, and to the presidency in 1951. Though he was extremely busy, Ken found time for several courses at summer school and later branched out into selling life insurance. This latter endeavor proved to be as profitable as teaching and soon became a rewarding part-time job. Meanwhile, through his participation in organizations of the blind, Ken began to have his first contacts with national figures in the organized blind movement. Outstanding among these was Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, founder and president of the National Federation of the Blind.

While Ken enjoyed teaching at the Tennessee School, he wanted to do more in this expanding field. In 1953 he left the school to accept a position at the Oakland Orientation Center in California. His work, especially in counseling and guidance, became more intensified through the closer contact with persons trying to regain their rightful place in society. His interest in the National Federation was also sharpened by the many projects undertaken for that organization. One of the major projects in which he played an important role while in California was the campaign to gain recognition and the right to credentials for blind teachers in that state. Stemming from this great initial effort, there are now almost 50 blind teachers employed in the California schools. The lives of many blind Californians were enriched through the teachings, guidance, advice and encouragement received from Kenneth Jernigan. When he left Oakland to accept the leadership of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, the people who knew him were

confident that he would fulfill that challenging assignment with outstanding success.

With the zest of a crusader, Ken plunged into the task of building up the Iowa programs for the blind. He found the commission housed in small and poorly equipped quarters, with a budget of only twenty thousand dollars. The entire staff consisted of six people. It was in all respects a dismal picture and a bleak prospect. But it did not remain so for long. Step by step, Ken skillfully planned and expanded the program, services, staff and budget of the commission. He argued up and down the state, and won growing support for his programs. Today the commission is housed in a fully equipped six-story building, serving more than four thousand blind Iowans. A budget of \$400,000 is financing programs of rehabilitation, orientation, home teaching, home industries, vending stands, braille library and many other related services. Each of these programs is characterized by the efficient organization, procedures and service concepts promoted by the dynamic director.

In a way, with each year of experience in work for the blind, Ken gained as much as he gave. With each passing year he has become more convinced that blindness need not serve as a hindrance in virtually any vocation. Admitting that sight is an advantage, he hastens to point out that there are numerous alternative techniques which, learned and utilized properly, provide the blind person with the "equalizer."

Kenneth Jernigan has worked for what he believes in--and his preachment has been practiced with driving energy. Speaking with firm conviction, he declares: "If I were asked to sum up my philosophy of blindness in one sentence, I would say--it is respectable to be blind. Few people would deny this in the abstract, but when we analyze what they really believe we find that most of them are at first ashamed of blindness."

This blind leader is convinced that the dominant attitudes of society toward blindness place unwarranted limitations upon the blind person. Since social attitudes, unlike the physical fact of blindness, are open to change, he maintains that one of our principal functions should be to encourage proper attitudes toward blindness and the blind. Adequate knowledge, understanding and recognition of talents must be brought to supplant traditional preconceptions, prejudices and generalizations about the blind. From a climate of healthy social attitudes will emerge the opportunities and full rights of citizenship which should be the birthright of the blind. And they, in turn, will then carry their

full and proper share of the responsibility of free and independent citizens in our democratic society.

UDALL COMMENDED BY NFB CHIEF

(Editor's note: We believe that our readers will be interested in the following correspondence between Russell Kletzing, President of the National Federation of the Blind, and the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, bearing on proposed appeals machinery to aid blind vending stand operators in solving the problems of harassment and interference threatening their operations.)

January 22, 1963

Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

"I have studied with much interest your proposal, appearing at page 74 in the January 3, 1963 issue of the Federal Register, to establish within the Department of the Interior, an appeals procedure for the consideration of differences and disputes arising out of the operation of the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act.

"In behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, I congratulate you on the action you have taken to further the objectives of this federal law.

"The Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act was passed by Congress in 1936 'for the purpose of providing blind persons with remunerative employment, enlarging the economic opportunities of the blind, and stimulating the blind to greater efforts in striving to make themselves self-supporting...'

"We of the organized blind, men and women from all walks of American life and from all parts of the country, are joined together in

the National Federation of the Blind to secure for all blind persons a better life and increased opportunities for a decent livelihood.

"We have looked hopefully to the Randolph-Sheppard Act to provide many blind persons with an opportunity for employment.

"However, we have grown increasingly concerned in recent years as federal departments and agencies have with increasing consistency disregarded the purposes of the Randolph-Sheppard Act and have too often acted to thwart the objectives intended to be served by this federal law. As a result, not only have relatively few vending stands been established in federal locations under the Vending Stand Program during the past 26 years, but vending stands located in federal buildings and on federal property are, in many instances, threatened with extinction. Trained and qualified blind persons employed in these stands are subjected to harassments, making continued operations of the stands difficult, and perhaps even doubtful.

"Therefore, on behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, I commend you on the action you have taken to protect and further the purposes of the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

"Certainly an appeals mechanism which will help to make possible the realization of these objectives has long been needed. However, we should like to take advantage of the invitation contained in the Federal Register announcement to suggest a change in your proposed appeals procedure.

"The regulations propose that final appeal authority within the Department of the Interior shall vest in the Secretary of the Interior or in a person designated by him. It is our belief that such an appellate authority, exercised by an official of one of the contending parties to the dispute under consideration would have the appearance of lacking impartiality.

"This, we think, would be most unfortunate and most unsatisfactory.

"The appeals procedure culminating in one departmental officer might make decisions which would be binding upon the disputants, but we are sure it would utterly fail to settle disputes.

"It is our view that under this system it would be very difficult to convince a state vending stand official that a decision against his

complaint had been objectively arrived at, and that, in fact, the cards had not been stacked against him from the start by the very nature of the appeals mechanism.

"We suggest that in substitution for the one-man appeals authority contained in the proposed regulations, such authority should be vested in and exercised by a three-man appeals board. The membership of this board should be the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (or their designees), and a third person chosen by the first two. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is an appropriate member of such an appeals board since he administers the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

"We believe that such a three-man board consisting of the recommended membership would be a more disinterested body, capable of impartial determinations, and it would tend to give such strength and force to its decisions that, not only would differences be settled, but disputes would be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and good will.

"It is our earnest hope that, after carefully considering the change we have suggested in the proposed appeals procedure, you will accept it and incorporate it.

"If you will do this, we believe, the mechanism to adjudicate differences and disputes arising out of the operation of the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act will prove more effective--and, because of this, more employment opportunities will be available to trained blind persons to earn their living from vending stands located in federal buildings or on federal property.

"Again let me thank you, Mr. Secretary, on behalf of all blind people for the efforts you are making to help them with the kind of help they need most and desire most--a better chance to help themselves through their own labors, by earning their own living through constructive, gainful activity.

"Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the proposed departmental appeals procedure, or, in fact, any other matter relating to the operations of vending stands within your department, our Washington representative, John F. Nagle, 1908 Que Street, N. W., would be pleased to meet with you and members of your staff and give such advice and assistance as he can."

Cordially yours,

Russell Kletzing
President

February 20, 1963

Dear Mr. Kletzing:

"Your letter of January 22 congratulating Secretary Udall for Interior's action to further the objectives of the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act is most appreciated.

"However, we believe your proposal to create a three-man board to review appeals arising under the Act would be no more effective than our plan to have such appeals adjudicated by the Secretary of the Interior or his designee. The language in our proposed regulations is intended to apply to matters for which this Department is responsible, and it has been our experience in other types of appeal procedures that final authority is best vested in one individual."

Sincerely yours,

D. Otis Beasley
Administrative Assistant Secretary
United States Department of the
Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington 25, D. C.

"BUKSHISH NO: EDUCATION YES"

"In bold letters both in Urdu script and in English the motto of the Seminar on the Education of Blind Youth--'Bukshish, No; Education, Yes'--meets the glance of the student or visitor to this very unique but extremely significant class in the Lady MacLagan Training College, Lahore."

Thus begins an article by Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant, veteran leader and teacher of the American blind, recently circulated by the United States Information Service from its branch office in Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Grant, a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind and of the California Council of the Blind, returned to Pakistan last fall under a Fulbright scholarship to continue educational and rehabilitation work begun there during an earlier one-year stay. Her article describes a highly promising teaching venture which she herself inspired and now guides.

"Mindful of the fact that one cannot teach children, blind or sighted, without teachers, the purpose of the seminar is to train teachers of the blind for the various localities throughout the country. These participants will in turn be leaders in setting up programs of education for blind children in their respective districts," Dr. Grant writes.

Sponsored by the Department of Education of Pakistan, the project has drawn 35 participants from all parts of the country. "Some participants are blind, a fact that does not come under discussion as long as a participant is assuming his responsibilities as a member of the seminar, and fulfilling his obligations in the group."

The seminar is scheduled to last for approximately 10 weeks, with workshops in the morning and lecture periods during the afternoons. Both Urdu braille and English braille are to be covered in the lectures, and a beginning will be made on writing much-needed textbooks in Urdu braille, the article points out.

Attention will be focused on analysis of the concept of blindness itself, as well as on cultural patterns of blindness (particularly in Pakistan), local incidence of blindness, and parental and community attitudes toward blind people. Introductory discussion and definition will be given to such key terms as residential school, training center, rehabilitation center, sheltered workshop, visual acuity, mobility, and others.

"Five possible schemes for the education of blind children, including the residential school, the braille class, the integrated program and the itinerant program will be critically analyzed in terms of needs of the community and available support," Dr. Grant observes. In addition, demonstrations and field trips pertaining to education of blind youth are integral parts of the course. "Psychological, physiological, philosophic, vocational and economic aspects of this national problem will be given due consideration" by the seminar.

The Lahore Lions Club, long concerned with the welfare of blind persons, has come forward with several scholarships in an effort

to stimulate interest in the project. The college is providing materials and space, and local libraries have assisted in the compilation of wide braille bibliography for use of the participants.

"All in all, as a first step in a plan for 'More Education for More Blind Children,' the results of the seminar will be that 'forward step' in a program which, as with other developments in education, will require time," according to Dr. Grant. "The seeds planted will have to be nurtured towards maturity. The blind child has a right to look forward to a life of independence, of self-support and to a worthy place in his community. With this enthusiastic, capable and interested group of Pakistani teachers, each in his or her individual area teaching other teachers and at the same time teaching blind children in their communities either in residential schools or in government schools, a new era and a new chance in life will be opened up for blind children.

"As one participant said: There isn't much difference between the teaching of blind children and of sighted children, they are all children. The blind child reads with his fingers, the sighted with his eyes. They both read and write in their individual ways. Blindness is no deterrent to learning; the deterrent is lack of opportunity. There is no excuse for another generation of blind beggars; Pakistan does not wish nor deserve that. So, Bukhshish, No; Education, Yes! This is the Pakistani way."

NEW YORK STRIKE HITS BLIND NEWS DEALERS

The New York City newspaper strike, presently in its third month of idle presses and stalemated negotiations, has affected few segments of Manhattan residents more severely than the city's 200 blind news dealers.

The plight of the self-employed blind newsstand operators was chronicled recently in an Associated Press dispatch published by the Berkeley (California) GAZETTE.

Most of the blind dealers have been forced to close their stands as a result of the newspaper shutdown, the article said. They cannot collect unemployment compensation because they are self-employed;

nor do they have a union to which they may turn for benefits.

Although they had been without income for almost two months, only 12 percent of these blind businessmen had gone on relief in late January--preferring to wait out the strike rather than apply for welfare benefits, according to the dispatch.

Typical of those caught in the middle by the labor dispute is Victor Kakis, who worked at his stand daily from before noon to mid-night for an average of \$40 per week--and whose only wish now is to reopen his street-corner business and resume the sale of papers again.

"I don't want any help," Kakis was reported as saying. "I just want to make a living like everyone else. I don't want to be a dead weight to anyone.

"I only want my papers back, and I'll be happy. I don't care how long I have to work. All the blind dealers will tell you the same. They only want to start selling papers again."

Kakis, 61, had been a captain of waiters at New York hotels before his sight began to fail. Later the state and private agencies helped him to obtain his newsstand, which he has operated for six years.

Another dealer whose situation is much the same is Robert Irving, 41, who became blind in 1949 and has had a Harlem newsstand for eight years, the A.P. story said.

Irving formerly arose at two in the morning and made his way two miles to the stand, where he worked until 4 P.M. for an average of \$65 to \$70 a week. He had \$500 in savings when the strike began, but today is almost penniless and yet resists applying for relief along with his wife, Sadie, also blind.

"A few of the other blind dealers are so discouraged they say they might just as well give up and go on relief all the time," Irving reportedly said. "They wouldn't make as much, but they wouldn't have to worry about strikes. I don't want to ever have to do that. I want to be independent."

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATES

Liberalization of Wisconsin's program of aid to the blind to bring it into conformity with changes in the federal law has been recommended by the State Board of Public Welfare. Under existing state law, a needy blind person may receive up to \$75 per month in public assistance with an exemption of \$85 of earned income. The board's proposal would exempt the blind recipient's total earnings for a 12-month period when he is engaged in an acceptable plan for rehabilitation.

In Arkansas, both houses of the state legislature are reported to have approved a proposal to increase maximum monthly welfare payments to the blind and to the aged from \$65 to \$85 a month.

Counterbalancing these constructive trends within the states is the appearance in Illinois of renewed efforts to lengthen the state's one-year residence requirement governing eligibility to all categories of public assistance. Two bills have been introduced in the state legislature to make the requirement more stringent--one calling for a residence regulation of three years during the nine years preceding application, the other imposing a two-year residence limitation.

In New York, meanwhile, an 11-member commission named by Governor Rockefeller to investigate welfare administration has called for a "social diagnosis" of all applicants for public assistance, for the purpose of determining the applicant's ability to respond to restorative services. The commission also recommended salary increases for professional welfare staff; appointment of citizen advisory committees to improve public understanding of welfare, and a general modernization of long-standing state welfare codes and practices.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

News from Arizona. Three chairmen were named to posts with the Arizona Federation of the Blind at the group's recent board meeting: Miss Margaret Pekarek, chosen as chairman of the Ways and Means

Committee; Marvin G. Hoff, as publicity chairman, and Richard Stotera as chairman of awards and scholarships.

Some 35 blind workers in the state have reached the halfway point in their civil defense project of preparing 150,000 sanitation kits to be distributed to fallout shelters, according to word from Publicity Chairman Hoff. He adds: "Now that the blind workers are hitting their production stride they are turning out more than it had been thought sighted workers could do. A small taste of economic independence has stimulated these workers to hope that other contracts will be forthcoming and that the project may continue indefinitely."

* * * * *

Braille Music Magazine. A new musical magazine, on the order of a "Music Readers' Digest," is planned by New York City's Lighthouse for the Blind. Cost of the braille publication will be \$1.50 per year, and persons interested in subscribing are requested to write to the Lighthouse at 11 East 59th Street, New York City. Articles for the magazine will be selected from such authoritative sources as MUSICAL AMERICA, THE MUSICIAN and MUSICAL REVIEW, among other leading musical periodicals.

* * * * *

Inspirational Book on Disability. Henry Viscardi, Jr., founder and president of Abilities Inc., as well as of its educational and research affiliate, Human Resources Foundation, has written a book on problems of the physically disabled entitled A Letter to Jimmy. The volume is described as "an exceedingly warm and down-to-earth book of hope and encouragement about youth, 'disabled' or not--for parents, teachers and all of us who are concerned about the future generations. . . . "Publisher is Paul S. Eriksson, Inc., 119 West 57th Street, New York 19, New York.

Viscardi, who was born legless in 1912, is the founder as well as president of his Long Island concern, which is made up entirely of severely disabled persons. Awarded honorary degrees for his contributions to rehabilitation by Fordham University and Manhattanville College, he has also been cited by the American Medical Association and the National Management Association. He is the author of two previous books, Give Us the Tools and A Laughter in the Lonely Night.

* * * * *

Blind Girl Explorer. The first blind person ever to win laurels as an expert "speleologist" (explorer of caves) is a 27-year-old French girl named Colette Richard, according to an article in the BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE. Sightless since birth, Miss Richard is said to have made 23 major underground explorations, climaxing her adventures by spending a night in the caverns of Saint-Gaudens, France.

Described by fellow explorers as "one of our aces," the young French woman also excels as a mountain climber, golfer, swimmer and horseback rider, according to the newspaper. In describing her cave explorations, she has pointed out that "inside the earth eyes become less important" and that "one need not see to sense danger."

* * * * *

LISTEN bows to BLIND AMERICAN. An article published in THE BLIND AMERICAN last October--"LISTEN Eavesdrops--With Partial Hearing"--has been reprinted in full in the October 1962 issue of LISTEN, bi-monthly periodical of the Catholic Guild for the Blind of Boston. LISTEN's courtesy in circulating our article to its large readership is the more commendable in view of the fact that the article criticized the Catholic publication's reporting of the continuing controversy surrounding the ouster of the National Federation of the Blind from its elective seat on the Executive Committee of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind.

* * * * *

D.A.V. Heralded. The work of the Disabled American Veterans was praised recently by Senator John A. Carroll of Colorado in a statement published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (Appendix). Senator Carroll cited the following principles as governing the activities of the 30-year-old service organization on behalf of the war-disabled:

"1. Proper medical care and treatment of veterans for disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service.

"2. Adequate compensation for the degree of disablement caused by such disabilities.

"3. Training and/or education to restore employability of the wartime disabled into gainful employment.

"4. Adequate compensation to the widows, minor children, and dependent parents of veterans who die as the result of a service-incurred disability."

* * * * *

New Telegraph Rate. James B. Garfield, secretary of the California Council of the Blind, points out in a communication to this journal that a new reduced rate is now in effect for sending telegrams to our elected federal officials. A flat rate of seventy-five cents for fifteen words may be sent to Washington, D.C., from any point in the continental United States.

"The new service is called Personal Opinion Message and may be addressed to any member of Congress, the President, or other elected representatives. In it you may express your personal opinion on pending legislation or any governmental problem. Personalities are naturally excluded, and you are limited only by the dictates of decency and good taste," Mr. Garfield concludes.

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THE BLIND AMERICAN

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PROJECT TOMMY: A BROTHERHOOD PILOT CASE

By Ruth Kletzing

(Editor's note: Mrs. Kletzing is a California social worker with experience in various welfare programs, including that of the Variety Club Blind Babies Foundation. She is the wife of Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind.)

Picture a five-year-old, mentally retarded, blind boy in an institution for the retarded. He is brought out to you and his counselor for a visit. He wanders rather aimlessly, saying some words, mostly repetitious words with no apparent meaning, and not related to questions or comments put to him. Sometimes he handles a toy; many he just throws in any direction. Outside he continues babbling, but shows a little more interest in surroundings and enjoyment of the outdoors as well as ability to get around on his own -- the only really positive signs. Add to this the information from the hospital that this boy is a real problem: aggressive, prone to screaming and tantrums, and must be given tranquillizers much of the time. This was how I saw Tommy in September, 1961.

Today his story -- one of which the American Brotherhood for the Blind can be very proud -- is not of perfect adjustment, but of so great a change that it is hard to believe. Tommy now talks. He responds not only to the words people say to him but to the people. He no longer takes tranquillizers, and this seems to be a factor in his greater responsiveness. He has no more screaming tantrum spells. Now he wants -- in fact demands -- a goodnight kiss. Eight months ago he didn't even know what such a kiss was.

This is the picture now from Mrs. Bethany Harness, Tommy's counselor from the Variety Club Blind Babies Foundation (a counseling program with parents of pre-school blind children). It was her interest and faith in the child's real abilities which convinced me that this was a worthwhile pilot case for our American Brotherhood plan of placing blind children in "training homes."

The training home program had been proposed to the Brotherhood as a possible solution to the situation where parents were finding the problems of care for a blind child so overwhelming that the child was not developing as he should. The plan was to place such a child in

a home with people who could accept a blind child as a normal child, thus giving him the freedom as well as the training so essential to normal development. The pre-school counselor would continue working with the parents to develop an understanding of how a blind child can function.

Although Tommy was in an institution rather than in a home setting, he was a boy who needed immediate help if he was to survive. In spite of the Brotherhood's willingness to move ahead fast, and the consent of the mother obtained and a fine home located, there was still "red tape" to go through and just plain waiting for proper approval. It was not until August 2, 1962, that Tommy was placed in his carefully selected "training home" where progress began almost immediately under the wise and able care of an understanding and loving couple.

Tommy has had only two tantrums since this time. Once was when a teacher from the institution visited; the other was when he had to go back to the hospital (connected with the institution) for a medical checkup. At this time the doctor was able quickly to quiet him by assuring him that he was not staying, but would be going home.

At first Tommy was not responsive to Mrs. Harness, the pre-school counselor, when she visited him in the training home, but now he is assured that she is his friend and is not there to return him to the institution. One morning he surprised his foster parents by dressing himself completely. He eats by himself now and takes care of his bathroom needs by himself. He responds to directions and goes looking for things, where before things were tossed away or just "got lost" and were forgotten. He is beginning to ask about school.

So, in a period of eight months we have seen some amazing progress in the development of this boy. Though he is certainly not up to the development of a child his age, Tommy has shown a strong uphill growth pattern and seems to be well on the way to normal behavior and possible placement in school within a year or two.

CALIFORNIA SENATE COMMITTEE HITS WORKSHOPS

In a report remarkable both for its frankness and its extensive documentation, a fact-finding committee of the California State Senate has sharply challenged the widespread practice of using sheltered

workshops as places of rehabilitation for the physically disabled.

The Fact Finding Committee on Governmental Administration, consisting of seven state senators, recently released a 48-page Final Report on "Rehabilitation Workshops for the Handicapped" -- the product of several months of research, hearings and investigations.

"The committee's reservations about workshops as places of rehabilitation stem from the conclusion that the workshops' program offers a comfortable evasion of meeting responsibilities to a group of people more in need of jobs than of training," the report asserted. "Furthermore, the essence of the concept 'rehabilitation' is a mockery unless the disabled person can realize placement in the competitive market."

On the basis of extensive evidence gathered from welfare agencies, community groups and workshop representatives, the state legislative committee drew these notable conclusions (among others):

"Evidence indicates that it is not the handicap, but attitudes about handicaps, which provide the major obstacle to employment";

"Full exploration of means to ease access to employment, educational and training facilities in public employment, private employment, and schools should precede and supersede efforts to establish separate training based on handicaps";

"Advocates of programs which recommend separate, special training facilities for the disabled implicitly accept that which has been consistently disproved -- that the disabled as a group are less productive, more in need of skill, safety, and 'socialization' training than the rest of the working population. This all too often adds an unnecessary 'handicap' to the disability of those whom they are sincerely trying to help";

"Placement in productive employment should be the goal. All segments of society benefit from this. All segments of society have a stake and responsibility in this. "

In line with its conclusions, the report of the senatorial fact-finding committee strongly recommended that California's state government take the lead as a "model employer" in setting the pace and standards of employment of the handicapped, beginning with these specific steps:

-- Adoption of regulations "assuring every applicant, regardless of apparent handicap, who is otherwise eligible the right to take examinations, oral interviews, and to be considered for positions within the state civil service";

-- Recommendation "that the Department of Finance be instructed to develop a system of incentives by which firms doing business with the State of California shall be encouraged to employ handicapped workers on the same basis as other workers; and further . . . that the Department of Finance establish a system of offering recognition and public commendation of those firms doing business with the State who do, in fact, employ handicapped workers on the same basis as other workers";

-- Expansion of programs to hire the handicapped within state and local government agencies, and deletion of questions relating to mental illness from official application forms.

As these proposals make clear, the report of the California Senate's fact-finding committee has emphasized the values of integration and competitive participation of blind and disabled persons at all levels of training, schooling and employment -- with corresponding criticism of any institutions such as sheltered workshops which tend to segregate the handicapped from normal activities and opportunities.

Focusing on the issue of workshops as rehabilitation centers, the committee's report specifically exempted from consideration the special problems posed by the mentally retarded and by "those so severely disabled that they can never expect to compete in the labor market."

The report declared that for the handicapped in general "what training is needed can and should be available through channels available to the entire population: public schools, apprenticeship programs, on-the-job training.

"These channels will be increasingly constricted for the handicapped as long as the handicapped are set aside as a group, with all the implied inferiority which accompanies 'separate but equal' avenues toward the ultimate goal -- employment," it was said.

Pointing to the "abundant evidence" confirming that the medically disabled "show insignificant differences from other workers in productivity, attendance, reliability, and accident rates," the committee

asserted that "it seems incongruous and cruel to expect them, as a group, to overcome the additional handicap of an implied inferiority which does not exist."

The report argued that this "implied inferiority" more than any other single factor bolsters the main obstacle to employment of the disabled -- "unrealistic fears which exist in the minds of prospective employers."

As an example it was said that "a blind person is obviously medically disabled insofar as his vision is concerned, but more importantly, for the purposes of this report, is handicapped by society's blindness. This prevents him from gaining competitive employment and training through the channels ordinarily available to other persons."

With respect to the use of workshops for rehabilitable handicapped persons, the fact-finding committee maintained that "attempts to combine the functions of providing work and of 'rehabilitating' are mutually contradictory and self-defeating when carried on together . . . Segregated training centers, no matter what their standard or training may be, operate on a principle which, if carried to its logical extreme, is fundamentally inconsistent with the notion of rehabilitation."

In support of its conclusion that placement in normal productive employment should be the goal of training, the California senatorial committee noted that "subcontracts from defense and industry are forming a larger part of the workshop program. This work is bid for in competition with other places of employment, and the same standards must be met. The question must be asked: If workshop employees can satisfactorily produce quality products of this kind in a workshop, why cannot they be doing the same work directly for a 'regular' employer who is not exempt from minimum wage provisions and whose employees have the right to organize and bargain collectively?"

The report observed that "among the most outspoken foes of workshops as a means of rehabilitation is Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, Chairman of the California State Welfare Board and President of the American Brotherhood for the Blind." In support of its case against the workshops, the committee report quoted liberally from "the book, Hope Deferred, which Dr. tenBroek co-authored with Floyd W. Matson," and indicated its agreement with the general philosophy of rehabilitation set forth in that study.

The report contrasted "two prevalent philosophies" toward

employment of the handicapped. On one hand "many legislators, administrators, private businessmen, and welfare workers assume that handicapped persons are inherently less productive and capable than others, regardless of the task in question." Identifying this attitude as "far and away the gravest obstacle to the employment of the handicapped," the committee observed that it is "so pervasive that many handicapped persons and many persons working with the handicapped share it" -- with the result that efforts and expenditures come to be concentrated "in the area of sheltered employment for the unfortunates."

In contrast, according to the report, "the foes of this position believe that handicapped persons have more similarities to other human beings than differences. All persons have limitations and they all have talents in varying degrees. The information compiled so far in this report would indicate that it is more fruitful to devote time and effort to exploit and develop the capacities of the handicapped rather than magnify differences which have been proved to be inconsequential in terms of ability to perform productively."

In illustrating its central conclusion that the major barrier "is not the handicap but attitudes about the handicap," the committee's report made this graphic analogy:

"Special training of people who, as a group, are no more in need of special training than the bulk of the population evades the problem. If a group of people think that goldfish are not good swimmers, their opinion will not be changed by giving goldfish swimming lessons. You are probably not going to make much better swimmers out of the fish, either. It is the faulty opinion which needs rehabilitation."

Chairman of the fact-finding committee is Senator Stanley Arnold. Copies of the committee's report -- formally entitled "Final Report on Rehabilitation Workshops for the Handicapped" -- may be obtained by writing to the Chairman, Senate Fact Finding Committee on Governmental Administration, California State Senate, Sacramento, California.

BLIND REHAB THREATENED IN NEW JERSEY

By Robert H. Owens

(Editor's note: Mr. Owens, a frequent contributor to these pages, is president of the Trenton Association of the Blind and an active leader in the statewide Associated Blind of New Jersey.)

A reliable crystal ball is hard to come by in New Jersey. But an adequate substitute -- one that provides an ominous glimpse into the future of the state's blind vocational rehabilitation client -- can be found in the recently published report of a special study committee named by Governor Richard J. Hughes.

Known as The Governor's Committee on Efficiency and Economy in State Government, and dubbed "The Little Hoover Committee," the three business executives and three State Cabinet members appointed to the panel studied the executive operations in the state, from unemployment compensation to the management of concessions in state parks, and went back to the governor with more than fifty recommendations; among them the proposal that the state's three existing rehabilitation programs -- including the one for the blind -- be "unified in a single agency."

Therein lies our crystal ball, our glimpse of what lies ahead for the blind vocational "rehab" client. The committee said the blind client should take his place in line with other categories of handicapped citizens.

We know where that place in line is likely to be; we know where it was before there was a special agency for the blind. The blind "rehab" clients' place in line is at the very end -- after the crippled children, after those with heart disease, arthritis, asthma; after the mentally retarded; amputees, quadraplegics and paraplegics.

In New Jersey now, the rehabilitation program for the blind is in the Commission for the Blind (where it belongs); the program for crippled children is in the Crippled Children's Commission (where it belongs), and the program for other categories of handicapped adults is in the Rehabilitation Commission. The study committee, purportedly in the interest of efficiency and economy, says the three programs belong together. In essence, the committee says one long line,

outside a single door, is more efficient and economical than three shorter lines, outside three separate doors.

At least one person in the Garden State is convinced the report and the recommendations of "The Little Hoover Committee" has no significance, but his views are tied closely to personal interests. A labor union official, he said a representative of labor should have served on the panel, otherwise the panel's recommendations are worthless.

The State Chamber of Commerce likes the report. So do many state officials. State employees, however, do not. Neither do some of the veterans' organizations. A State House news bureau chief called the report "a devastating little bombshell." We, as has already been indicated, consider it a crystal ball.

While there may be wrangling over the importance of the report, there can be little doubt regarding the portentous significance of the recommendation to consolidate the "rehab" programs. There have been study committees before, followed by recommendations, followed by arguing and, ultimately, followed by action. Only three short months ago, the New Jersey Legislature and Governor Hughes "consolidated" the state's welfare programs, trimming the needy blind to fit a general administrative pattern, stripping them of gains made over the years.

Now the flame -- small though it may be at present -- has been lighted under a different melting pot and the blind "rehab" client, with the gains he made over the years, with his special needs, would be cast in the same mold with other categories of the handicapped.

While a comparatively small portion of the foundation of the Commission for the Blind was destroyed by the centralization of the welfare programs, it is likely the entire commission would topple if the "Little Hoover" proposal is followed.

Blind people -- not only in New Jersey, but wherever threats to their progress are made -- must fight to maintain their position near the front of the line; there, goals are within reach -- while from the rear of the column, they are inaccessible and one is forced to eat the dust raised by the boots of those who march ahead.

THE POST OFFICE THAT REFUSED TO DELIVER

(Editor's note: This is the story of a vending stand. More exactly, it is the true account of how a vending stand came to be approved for installation in the post office at Iowa City, Iowa. Despite its unusual length, we think it is an important story, for at least four reasons: First, it indicates to blind persons what the laws and regulations are which govern the vending stand program; second, it suggests ways and means of obtaining approval for such stands in federal buildings; third, it underlines the urgency of currently pending amendments to the Randolph-Sheppard Act under which the program operates; and fourth, it is a compelling story in itself.

(Our story has a happy ending -- but it also contains the dramatic ingredients of frustration, conflict, evasion, and narrowly averted tragedy. It is presented here essentially as a "dialogue" -- the written dialogue of an actual correspondence, carried on mainly by the two central characters of the story, with occasional interjections by others along the way. The two central figures are the director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, Mr. Kenneth Jernigan, and the regional director of the U. S. Post Office Department in St. Louis, Mr. John F. Dee.

(Besides these two antagonists, the vending stand drama has a cast of dozens -- many performing behind the scenes. The letters which follow have been culled from a file of literally hundreds of communications -- written over less than a year to and from such personages as U. S. senators, congressmen and federal officials at virtually every level from clerk to Postmaster General -- all of them on the same theme.

(The scene is first set, and the background of the action explained, in the following letter of April 20, 1962, from Mr. Jernigan to Senator Jennings Randolph, author of the Randolph-Sheppard Act which governs the national program of vending stands for the blind.)

* * * * *

. . . I am writing to you now because of recent problems we have been having with respect to the securing of vending stand locations. Your bill amending and strengthening the original Randolph-Sheppard Act is urgently needed, and if it were now law, the problems which we

are having would never have occurred. I hope that by giving you this information concerning specific instances of the violation of the spirit and purpose of the Randolph-Sheppard Act I can help to provide the data needed to substantiate the necessity of your present amendments

The situation is this: The post office in Iowa City has enough traffic to support a profitable vending stand and to permit a blind person to earn his own living instead of living on public assistance. There is not now and there never has been a vending stand in this post office. At Oxford, Iowa, a small town just outside of Iowa City, lives a young man in his middle twenties who was blinded in a gunshot accident three years ago. He is capable and alert and wishes to earn his own way in the world instead of being forced to live in idleness and at government expense. Almost a year ago we began to give this man training. We brought him to our Orientation and Adjustment Center in Des Moines and gave him intensive instruction in independent travel and other techniques. When he demonstrated interest in going into the vending stand business, we gave him a thorough course of training in our vending stand located in the Commission's building. In February of this year, he was completely ready to go. He was and is capable and well adjusted, eager and willing to work. The only thing remaining is whether he will receive an opportunity.

Late in February we contacted the Iowa City postmaster (I believe his name is Mr. Walter Barrow) to determine the feasibility of a vending stand in the post office. The postmaster received us cordially and indicated that he favored the vending stand. Before making formal, written application we made a space and traffic survey. We always do this in order to make certain that our requests are reasonable and that our proposed vending stand will not interfere with the regular operations going on in the building. There was plenty of room.

Accordingly, we submitted our formal application. It was returned to us rejected. We were greatly surprised by this, in view of the representations which the Iowa City postmaster had made to us, and so we went to see him again. This time he was polite but evasive, making some general talk about "not enough room" and "interfering with the operation of the post office." We came away with the impression (although he never said so explicitly) that after our first visit he had thought the matter over and decided that our application should be rejected for a reason having nothing to do with a vending stand as such. He wants a new post office, and the impression was given that if he granted us space for a vending stand, the higher-ups in the post office would say, "If he has enough space to give a vending stand to a blind person, he doesn't need a new building."

In subsequent contacts the postmaster attempted to blame the regional postal officials for the refusal, but his final position was that he was the boss, that he had made the decision, and that we could do nothing about it.

It would seem that if this situation cannot be reversed, it constitutes a flagrant violation of the spirit and the purpose of the legislation which bears your name

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(Letter of May 14, 1962, to the Honorable H. R. Gross, Congressman from Iowa, from John F. Dee.)

. . . We can appreciate your feelings in this matter as we, too, have the same consideration and feelings for helping the blind.

It is reported to me by the Acting Chief, Real Estate Branch, the official who disapproved the application for the vending stand, that every consideration was taken into account before the application was disapproved.

The foremost reason for rejecting this request is that our Postmaster and Regional officials definitely state we cannot give up the lobby space and that congestion developing from the establishment of a vending stand would seriously hamper our Postal operations and cause inconvenience to our patrons.

Another factor is that our space is so critically short we have asked the Department to abandon our present facility in the Federal Building to permit us to obtain leased space elsewhere. In the event this happens, the establishment of a vending stand would probably be an economic waste and unprofitable to the operator.

In view of the above statements, if the Commission for the Blind feel they want further consideration for the establishment of this vending stand, we will be glad to again investigate the matter to determine and reconsider approving a resubmitted application.

We do appreciate your interest in Postal affairs.

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(Letter of May 24, 1962, to Congressman Gross from Kenneth Jernigan.)

. . . I found Mr. Dee's letter quite interesting on two counts:

1. He virtually admits what I reported to you earlier--that is, that the application was not rejected on its own merits but as a maneuver in the larger game of attempting to get a new post office for Iowa City. I believe that this violates the spirit, and perhaps the letter, of the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

2. I find it difficult to understand Mr. Dee's statement that he "cannot give up the lobby space and congestion developing from the establishment of a vending stand would seriously hamper our Postal operations and cause inconvenience to our patrons." I find it difficult to understand this statement because it does not seem to accord with the facts. As I indicated in my earlier letter, we made a very careful space and traffic survey before making application for the stand. The space which we are requesting is not now being used for anything, and because of the way the lobby is constructed, we do not believe it would be possible for it to be used as part of the postal operation. Our proposed vending stand would in no way contribute to any congestion; and, far from inconveniencing patrons, it would offer a service to them. Other post offices of similar size and with smaller lobbies have been approved for vending stands which are now operating to the satisfaction of everybody, not to mention allowing additional blind persons to support themselves rather than live at public expense. The post office at Fort Dodge for instance (operated as a part of a GSA building) has a vending stand in its lobby, and the postal officials are very much pleased with the operation. We have measured both lobbies and the Fort Dodge lobby is quite a bit smaller than the one at Iowa City. Our studies of traffic count do not indicate that the number of people coming into the lobby of the Iowa City post office is enough greater than the number coming into the Fort Dodge lobby to make any substantial difference. Yet, the Iowa City lobby is the larger of the two by a good deal.

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(Letter of May 22, 1962, to the Honorable B. B. Hickenlooper, Senator from Iowa, from Joseph P. Doherty, Special Assistant to the Assistant Postmaster General.)

. . . The installation of vending stands and machines by the blind in post offices operated by the Department has been decentralized

and we are taking the liberty of forwarding your letter and enclosure to our Regional Director, Plaza Station, St. Louis 99, Missouri, for appropriate attention and direct reply to you.

* * * * *

(Letter of May 25, 1962, to Senator Hickenlooper from John F. Dee.)

. . . Regarding the installation of a vending stand for the blind in the Iowa City, Iowa, Federal Post Office Building, we have written many letters concerning this matter and we must strongly state that to grant approval for this installation will hinder and harm our Postal operations and will be an interference to our patrons.

In view of the stated known facts, however, we have written Mr. Kenneth Jernigan of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, to resubmit his application for the installation of the vending stand.

We are so short of space in our Iowa City, Iowa, Post Office Building that there is an active case for us to abandon the Federal Building and occupy leased quarters for the needs of our Postal operations. This could probably occur within the next three years.

We do appreciate your interest in Postal affairs.

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(Letter of May 25, 1962, to Kenneth Jernigan from John F. Dee.)

After your appeal to various members of Congress, we have been deluged with correspondence concerning our disapproval of the establishment of a vending stand to be operated by the blind in the lobby of the subject building.

We have written many letters concerning our reasons for rejecting the request, and we repeat here that to establish a vending stand will cause us hardship and interference with our Postal service.

We are so critically short of space in our Iowa City, Iowa, Post Office that there is an active case for us to abandon our present quarters and to seek leased quarters which will accommodate our Postal needs.

This is brought to your attention because it could easily occur that we will vacate the present Federal Building sometime within the next three years.

In view of these facts, however disturbing they may be to us, we ask you to resubmit your application on Form 8-B1-1 (4th rev. 8-56), through your local Postmaster for forwarding to our office.

We will then consent to the establishment of a vending stand provided the stand is established in an area which will least interfere with the operations of our Postal affairs and inconvenience to our patrons.

When we receive your application and plans showing where the stand is to be erected, we will clear this matter through General Services Administration as to the proper installation of such a stand.

We will await your further advice.

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(Letter of July 6, 1962, to W. J. Barrow, Postmaster, Iowa City, Iowa, from Fred J. Schmidt, Jr., Chief, Real Estate Branch, St. Louis, Missouri.)

. . . As you know, this approval is given reluctantly, because we know it will interfere with our operations and postal patron service, due to the narrowness of our lobby, and already crowded conditions. In the course of the operation of this vending stand, we want you to keep us informed as to any serious interference with our operations.

This approval is given with the further understanding that the installation of the Blind Vending Stand will not cause any demand to be made for the profits now going to the Employee's Committee, from certain vending stands in the Post Office workroom and swing room areas.

The above facts are being made known to the Iowa Commission for the Blind from two reference copies of this advice, which you should forward to them with the two copies of the approved application.

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(Letter of July 11, 1962, to Kenneth Jernigan from W. J. Barrow, Postmaster, Iowa City.)

At the direction of Mr. Fred J. Schmidt, Chief, Real Estate Branch, Post Office Department, St. Louis, Missouri, I am sending you two approved copies of Application to Establish Vending Stand on Federal Property.

It is understood by my office that the installation of the Blind Vending Stand in the lobby of the Iowa City post office will not cause any demand to be made for the profits now going to the Employee's Committee from vending stands operated in the local Post Office work-room and swing room areas.

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(Letter of July 30, 1962, to W. J. Barrow from Kenneth Jernigan.)

. . . I wish to take this opportunity to thank you personally and the other postal officials involved for your approval of our application to establish a blind operated vending stand in the lobby of the Iowa City Post Office Building. I cannot fail, however, to take note of the general tone of Mr. Schmidt's letter and its implications for the future. In fact, two particular parts of his letter require comment:

1. Mr. Schmidt states: "As you know, this approval is given reluctantly, because we know it will interfere with our operations and postal patron service, due to the narrowness of our lobby, and already crowded conditions. In the course of the operation of this vending stand, we want you to keep us informed as to any serious interference with our operations." I am sure that Mr. Schmidt does not mean to suggest that you begin to try to build a record with respect to our vending stand and that the record be written in such a way as to arrive at a predetermined conclusion, but there are those who might put such an interpretation upon his language, especially in view of the previous developments with regard to this matter. I would hope that the approval of our application is an approval in fact as well as in word. Let me hasten to add that I am sure it is and that all involved are acting in good faith.

2. Mr. Schmidt further says: "This approval is given with the further understanding that the installation of the Blind Vending Stand will not cause any demand to be made for the profits now going to the

Employee's Committee, from certain vending stands in the Post Office workroom and swing room areas." The Commission for the Blind, the State licensing agency under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, has no immediate plans to request assignment to the blind operator of income from vending machines operated by the Employee's Committee, but we are unable to concur in the stipulation that approval of our application precludes the possibility of considering this matter at a later date. We believe, moreover, that such a stipulation is contrary to the spirit of the Randolph-Sheppard Act and the spirit and the letter of your own regulations issued pursuant to that Act by the Post Office Department. We have reviewed the postal regulations governing the installation of vending stands and particularly the portions related to assignment of income from vending machines. Let me quote to you from these regulations:

"614.7 Assignment of Profits.

.71 To Blind Persons. The profits from all vending machines presently operated by the licensed blind operator of a lobby stand, either in conjunction with his stand or in other areas of the same building under control of the Post Office Department, shall be assigned to the blind operator. Where machines are being operated by an employees' committee in proximity to a stand or machines operated by a blind person and are in competition therewith, and where a blind operator is not receiving an adequate income, consideration shall be given to assigning the blind operator all or part of the profits from other vending machines in the same building, regardless of location. (Adequate income is construed as being the equivalent of the average income of the average employee at the installation.) Reassignment of profits shall be considered only upon request from a State licensing agency to a postmaster or other postal official in charge of an installation. The assignment of profits to the blind operator from other vending machines shall be determined by the postal official in charge and the State licensing agency on the basis of the following factors:

- a. Proximity to and competition with the vending stand;
- b. Amount of income which accrues to the operator from the stand operation; and
- c. Amount of profits from vending machines not operated in connection with the stand."

In light of this unequivocal language I would doubt that either Mr. Schmidt or we would want to (or, for that matter, could) make or accept such a stipulation. In view of the clearer intent expressed in the Regulations of the Post Office Department regarding the assignment of income from vending machines, I am requesting approval of our application without regard to the assignment of income from vending machines. After the vending stand which we plan to install in the post office lobby has been in operation for approximately one year, we will have available sufficient information to make a valid judgment regarding the desirability of requesting assignment of vending machine income to the blind vending stand operator.

All of us who have worked to secure this vending stand location have acted in good faith. We are certain that the postal officials involved have also acted in good faith. It would be unfortunate if anything occurred at this late date to cause a rehashing of the situation again.

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(Letter of October 30, 1962, to W. J. Barrow and Fred J. Schmidt from Kenneth Jernigan.)

On July 11, 1962, Mr. Barrow wrote a letter to me transmitting two copies of our approved form 8-B1-1 together with a copy of the July 6 advice from Mr. Fred J. Schmidt, Chief, Real Estate Branch. On July 30, 1962, I replied to this letter, sending a copy to Mr. Schmidt. In my letter I raised certain questions of law and propriety and requested a clarification. I raised these questions not as a private citizen but in my official capacity as head of a state licensing agency under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

It is now October 30, 1962, and I still have not received any reply from either of you. In the meantime, even though we have from you an officially approved application for the location and style of our vending stand in the lobby of the Iowa City Post Office (accompanied as it was by unacceptable stipulations), indirect feelers have been put out to see whether we would be willing to accept a less desirable location in another part of the lobby.

For three more months a blind person has been prevented from having the opportunity to earn his own living and support himself because of these delays. Surely it is not in the public interest or in the interest of your own department for such a situation to have

occurred! In my official capacity as head of the state licensing agency under the Randolph-Sheppard Act (an Act passed by the Congress of the United States) I once again ask that you respond specifically to the points raised in my letter of July 30 so that we may proceed with some dispatch to establish the vending stand in question.

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(Letter of November 1 1962 to Kenneth Jernigan from John F Dee.)

We were completely taken by surprise by your registered letter of October 30, 1962, sent to both Mr. W J Barrow, Postmaster, and Mr. Fred J. Schmidt, Jr., Chief, Real Estate Branch.

Your letter of July 30, 1962, to the Postmaster, from our viewpoint, required no further answer. In the second to last paragraph of your letter and particularly the very last sentence, you answered yourself in your asserted "unequivocal language." You also recited Postal Manual, Chapter 614.7. We are aware of this chapter and section.

You also have on hand the approved Form 8-B1-1, dated July 5, 1962. Following the issuance to you of the authority expressed in Form 8-B1-1, we sent the plans and a copy of this form to the Area Manager, General Services Administration, as they have to approve the placement and installation of the vending stand.

In further regard to our memorandum to the Postmaster dated July 6, 1962, we certainly do have the privilege to be informed as to how the vending stand is working out and whether it causes a conflict with our operation.

Everyone concerned, except you, has considered the vending stand approval and pending installation an established fact. Our file here and in our Bureau in Washington are completely documented. Why the hesitance in this matter on your part we do not know.

It is, however, incorrect for you to infer that the Post Office Department and Post Office officials are responsible for depriving, delaying, and preventing a blind person the opportunity to earn his own living.

* * * * *

(Letter of November 9, 1962, to John F. Dee from Kenneth Jernigan.)

This will reply to your letter of November 1. In your advice of July 6, 1962, you said: "This approval is given with the further understanding that the installation of the Blind Vending Stand will not cause any demand to be made for the profits now going to the Employee's Committee, from certain vending stands in the Post Office workroom and swing room areas." As I pointed out to you in my letter of July 30, 1962, this statement contradicts directly the postal regulations pertinent to the matter. Having heard nothing from you in answer to my letter, I wrote you again on October 30, 1962. You answered under date of November 1, 1962, dealing only indirectly and by implication with the points raised in my letter.

Even so, I gather from reading between the lines that you are now willing to retract the statement made in your advice of July 6 and that our application is approved with the understanding that we may apply for the income from the vending machines in question if such seems indicated. I shall send this letter to you by registered mail, and if I have not heard from you to the contrary within ten working days, I shall proceed on the assumption that my interpretation of your remarks is correct. In other words, we will proceed with the installation of the vending stand.

Mr. C. L. Kneale of GSA -- who, incidentally, has always been most co-operative with our agency -- has suggested that he would like for us to put our stand in a different location in the lobby from the one on the approved application. Since we wish to be co-operative in this matter and since the new location is, in our opinion, at least as desirable as the one on the approved application, we are agreeable to this change and have so advised Mr. Kneale. Accordingly, I am submitting drawings of the proposed new location, which would place our stand in the southeastern corner of the lobby. If I have not heard from you to the contrary within ten working days, I shall proceed on the assumption that this proposed new location meets with your approval.

* * * * *

(Letter of November 15, 1962, to Kenneth Jernigan from John F. Dee.)

This is in response to your letter of November 9, 1962, concerning the installation of a vending stand for the blind in the Iowa City, Iowa, Post Office lobby in the Federal Building.

In direct contradiction to your misleading statements and assumptions in paragraphs one and two in your letter, quite to the contrary, we do not pledge or even expect you to ask for the income from the vending machines installed by the Employee's Committee in the workroom and swing room area. We cite to you advice received from our Department in Washington, as follows:

"As the vending machines operated by the postal employees at Iowa City are located in the swing rooms, the profits derived therefrom should revert to the employee committee to be used for the benefit and welfare of all employees of the Post Office, as provided in Sections 614.6 and 614.72 of the Postal Manual. If any question is raised by the State Commission for the Blind, this fact should be made very clear."

You seem to take as a predetermined fact that you are going to get the income from the Employee's Committee vending machines to bolster your wavering opinion that the stand should be established at all.

You have been authorized to establish the stand. Certainly, the Post Office Department, through our Postmaster and Postal Services Officer, has the right to direct the placement of the stand so that it will not interfere with our operations. We certainly also have the right to exercise our prerogative if the vending stand causes interference, confusion, or other operational difficulties.

* * * * *

(Letter of November 27, 1962, to John F. Dee from Kenneth Jernigan.)

In view of the tone of your last letter I am not sure that there is any point in writing you at all, but I shall make another effort. Let me say to you bluntly that you seem incapable of giving direct answers to clearly worded inquiries. There are still two questions which you have not answered: 1) Will you please give me a yes or no answer to this simple inquiry: Is our application to establish a vending stand in the lobby of the Iowa City Post Office approved without the stipulation that we may not apply for the income from the vending machines in the Post Office which have been discussed. In connection with this question I wish to say again that we do not now know whether we will wish to apply for the income from the vending machines later. We simply wish the vending stand approval to be an approval in fact--that is, in accordance with your own regulations as quoted in my letter of

July 30 of this year and the Randolph-Sheppard Act. 2). My last letter contained a drawing indicating a proposed location of the stand in the southeast corner of the Iowa City Post Office lobby. Do we have approval for that particular location? In your letter you made me a speech about your rights, but you did not answer the question.

As a matter of fact your whole tone throughout this entire affair has been one of injured dignity. You seem to feel that you are doing someone a favor and granting a special privilege by approving the establishment of a vending stand. The very opposite is true. You are carrying out the requirements of a Federal law. Petulance and snide remarks will not change that fact.

* * * * *

(Letter of December 10, 1962, to Kenneth Jernigan from W. H. Halbert, Acting Regional Director, Post Office Department, St. Louis.)

This is in response to your letter of November 27, 1962, and previous correspondence and actions concerning the installation of a vending machine in the lobby of the Government-owned Post Office Building in Iowa City, Iowa.

Although we did not receive the plans showing the location in the southeast corner of the lobby, we talked to the Postmaster by long distance telephone and he approves of the location.

We therefore approve this location for the installation of the vending stand, under the direction, of course, of our Postmaster and Mr. C. L. Kneale of General Services Administration.

As you have the approval for the installation which is covered by Form 8-B1-1, under date of July 5, 1962, this closes our action in this matter.

* * * * *

(Letter of December 18, 1962, to W. H. Halbert from Kenneth Jernigan.)

. . . Not only do I wish to thank you for giving a direct answer to one of the two questions which I put to Mr. Dee but also for the tone of your letter, which was refreshingly businesslike and unemotional.

We would very much like to proceed immediately with the installation of the vending stand in question, but before doing so we feel that we are entitled to a straightforward, unequivocal answer to the other question which I asked Mr. Dee in my letter of November 27. When one reviews the correspondence on this matter for the past few months, the conclusion is almost inescapable that Mr. Dee has deliberately tried to be evasive in dealing with the point raised. In July of this year we were given a conditional approval of our application to establish a vending stand in the Iowa City Post Office. At that time the language was certainly not vague or ambiguous. We were told that we might establish the stand with the condition that we would not ask for any income to be assigned to the stand from the vending machines in the Post Office being operated by the employees. It seemed to us that this violated the spirit and the letter of the Randolph-Sheppard Act and the specific provisions of the postal regulations. I raised these points with Mr. Dee in a letter under date of July 30.

Mr. Dee ignored my letter and made no reply at all until I wrote him again late in October. He did not deal at all with the point which had been raised but made a very evasive answer as if attempting to avoid the question altogether. I wrote to him again early in November and he made another evasive reply, this time quoting an advice which had apparently been received from your Central Office.

On November 27 I wrote once again to Mr. Dee to try to get a straightforward answer to my question

I repeat that I appreciate the tone and directness of your answer. However, as I have already said, we would like a direct answer to that part of my letter of November 27 which I have just quoted. Surely we have a right to expect a straightforward, unequivocal reply! Is the vending stand approved without the stipulation, or is it not?

The answer to this question goes far beyond the vending stand we are discussing. As I am sure you realize, it has far-flung implications. I hope you will understand our feeling in this situation. We will feel compelled to go to the Members of Congress, to the Postmaster General, to the National Federation of the Blind, and to all of the various media of publicity if we must in order to receive a forthright answer.

We are as anxious as you to conclude this matter, and I hope

that you will feel that you can give an answer to the question I have raised.

* * * * *

(Letter of January 10, 1963, to Kenneth Jernigan from John F. Dee.)

After review of correspondence relating to installation of vending stand in the lobby of the Post Office at Iowa City, Iowa, it has been concluded the installation can be made without any condition precedent concerning profits from the employee's organization vending machines. This condition precedent is rescinded and is not applicable.

The question of whether the Employee Committee at the Iowa City Post Office wishes to donate any portion of their vending machine funds to the operation of the proposed vending stand in the lobby can be given attention if submitted at a later date.

You may therefore proceed with the installation in accordance with previous agreement, coordinating with the General Services Administration Area Manager and the local Postmaster, to whom copies of this communication are being transmitted.

* * * * *

(Letter of January 31, 1963, to Senators Jennings Randolph, B. B. Hickenlooper and Jack Miller; and Representatives Fred Schwengel and Walter Baring, from Kenneth Jernigan.)

. . . Now that the illegal condition has been rescinded I feel that we can proceed to establish the vending stand. As I think back on the long struggle which has taken place concerning this matter several things seem quite clear: In the first place, we would never have been successful in this matter if it had not been for the help you gave. Your persistence and willingness to stick with us in the face of bureaucratic evasion and obstruction saved the day. You have earned the gratitude of blind people throughout the nation for your action.

I am also moved to reflect that something is drastically wrong when a situation of this type can occur. I have in my office a folder which must be at least two inches thick filled exclusively with correspondence concerning this one vending stand. I have spent hours of my own time and have written seventy to eighty letters. Your offices

have had to spend hours and hours of valuable time, and numerous postal officials have been involved in letter writing and conferring. The Federal and State governments have spent a pretty penny, all told, in time wasted and letters written and, for what? All of this effort has been spent to try to get Federal officials to carry out a Federal law. There are many Federal installations in Iowa and in other states, and we will be applying for approval to establish other vending stands in the future. I would not like and I am sure that you would not like to go through this sort of procedure on a regular basis. Beside all of this, what if we had been less persistent? There are undoubtedly many state administrators of programs for the blind who might not wish to get involved in this sort of dogged battle, being misquoted and accused of unreasonableness for standing up for their rights. Of course, the blind of the nation are the ones who suffer in the long run since they are deprived of opportunities which the Congress intended them to have.

Perhaps this matter should still be referred to the Justice Department to determine how the Randolph-Sheppard Act can be enforced. Perhaps the bill which is now pending in Congress to set up an appeals board is the answer.

In any case, I believe the Iowa Commission's battle is completely won, and I thank you again for helping us to win it. As a result of your efforts another blind person will have the opportunity to earn his own way in the world.

* * * * *

(Letter of January 23, 1963, to Kenneth Jernigan from Tim Seward, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Walter J. Baring.)

. . . I understand from John Nagle that the two Senators from Iowa and Congressman Schwengel of the Iowa City District have combined in sending the complete file of the "Iowa City Post Office Case" to the Justice Department, with the recommendation that an investigation be conducted to determine whether such protracted efforts must be made to secure enforcement of the Federal law.

* * * * *

(Editor's postscript: So ends our tale -- on a note of triumph for the Iowa Commission and the pro-vending stand forces. Not only has the contested stand been unconditionally approved for installation

at Iowa City, but the entire case has been placed before the Justice Department for possible investigation of the alleged unresponsive behavior of post office officials.

(Unfortunately, the ending is made less happy by a single sour note. The young blind trainee for whom the Iowa City vending stand was originally sought was unable to wait until the long-drawn-out hassle could be successfully concluded; he was placed by the Iowa Commission some months ago in other, equally suitable, employment. The Commission under its director, Kenneth Jernigan, is currently proceeding with plans to install the controversial stand in Iowa City's post office -- to be manned by another blind operator.)

NATIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTION BULLETIN

Members and friends of the National Federation of the Blind are reminded that the organization's 23rd anniversary convention will be held from July 3 through July 6 at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The hotel, one of the city's best, is centrally located at 1725 Pennsylvania Boulevard, Philadelphia. Rates for all rooms have been set at \$7.00 per day, single, and \$11.00 for double or twin-bed accommodations. Reservations may still be made by writing directly to the Sheraton, as soon as possible.

Convention arrangements, under the general management of NFB First Vice President Kenneth Jernigan, promise to include unusually interesting and informative tours along with a packed agenda of distinguished speakers, business activities and social events.

Located directly across from Philadelphia's railroad terminal, the Sheraton Hotel is surrounded by excellent and inexpensive restaurants. The hotel will provide free parking for conventioners in a connected garage, and has also arranged to fulfill all space needs including hospitality rooms, banquet facilities, auditorium and committee chambers.

The 1963 convention will follow the practice of recent years in commencing at 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, July 3, and adjourning at

5:00 P.M. Saturday, July 6. Assisting Ken Jernigan with arrangements are Frank Lugiano and Frank Rennard, state and local hosts of the Pennsylvania Federation, along with various cooperating groups and individuals in Philadelphia.

I. L. O. AIDS REHABILITATION OF DISABLED

The large-scale work of the International Labor Office in the vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons--including studies and research, setting up of international standards, and operational activities--have been vividly reported in a photo-story appearing in the December, 1962, issue of the ILO NEWS.

The publication stated that some 28 countries "in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East have benefited, or are benefiting, from ILO assistance in the vocational rehabilitation of the disabled"--particularly of the blind and maimed.

"This assistance takes different forms--short-term exploratory or survey missions, fellowship grants for study abroad, and, in some cases, the provision of equipment," the periodical said. For one example, ILO experts reportedly advised the government of the United Arab Republic from 1953 to 1956 in establishing a vocational guidance and training center for the blind where a wide diversity of trades is now taught.

In Ceylon, an ILO specialist was said to have spent three years at Colombo advising on the development of facilities for the rehabilitation, vocational training and employment of the blind and deaf. Another ILO expert was sent last year on a mission to the Centre⁷ at Dehra Dun, India, where he organized vocational training courses for the blind to fit them for industrial employment.

In yet another instance, at the request of the Portuguese government, the ILO sent an expert, himself blind, to advise^s the Ministry of Health and Assistance and private institutions on the rehabilitation, vocational guidance and training, placement and employment

of the blind. The ILO representative was said to have spent more than a year in Portugal.

Generally speaking, the ILO responds to requests from governments for help in such areas as: establishment of national vocational rehabilitation services; creation of programs aimed at the rehabilitation of particular categories of the disabled, such as the blind and deaf; establishment of pilot rehabilitation centers providing (in addition to medical care) social and vocational services for one or more categories of the disabled; development of efficient training programs for the disabled generally; creation of special placement services to operate within the framework of the national employment service, and the organization of sheltered employment projects for those disabled persons who cannot be made fit for ordinary competitive employment.

"All these activities have a common goal--to equip the disabled for a life no longer dependent solely on public or private philanthropy but rather fully integrated into the productive activities of the community," the journal said.

"The application of modern techniques of vocational rehabilitation has, in fact, proved that disabled persons no longer need to be a burden on the community and that it is possible to restore to the majority of them not only their earning power but also a sense of human dignity."

The International Labor Office was founded in 1919 to "advance the cause of social justice and, in so doing, to contribute to the establishment of universal and lasting peace." In 1946 it became the first specialized agency to be associated with the United Nations; and today the number of ILO-affiliated countries totals 104.

THE MAIL BOX

(Editor's note: THE BLIND AMERICAN welcomes correspondence from readers on all topics affecting the welfare and well-being of Americans, especially those blind or disadvantaged. Letters should be addressed to: Editor, THE BLIND AMERICAN, American

Brotherhood for the Blind, Inc., 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.)

To The Editor:

Following my letter in the November issue of THE BLIND AMERICAN magazine, I received several telephone calls and two letters from readers who had questions, and requested further information

One question: "We understand that more than one-half of California hotels refuse to admit blind persons as guests. Why is this?" Answer: It seems that about 25 years ago, one Fred Throux, a blind man, came to Los Angeles and put up at a hotel, and then fell down the stairs of the lobby. He brought suit against the hotel in a court of law, and was given a judgment against the chain of hotels operating this particular establishment, which was later upheld by the California State Supreme Court. Since that time the proprietor of some hotels, particularly the large chains, have been afraid to have blind tenants for fear of such suits. While the judgment was not large, only \$350.00-- and while Fred Throux has since passed away--the damage he has done for the cause of the blind lives long after.

We have been told that legislation should be proposed that would solve this problem, by a law absolving or exempting hotels from such suits. Inasmuch as the California Council of the Blind, in its regular convention in October, passed a resolution proposing legislation that would allow dogs in a hotel, I suggest that a resolution allowing blind people in a hotel and exempting hotels from liability would be more in order!

Another case of blind stupidity was called to my notice just yesterday, when the President of the Minneapolis Transit Company of Minneapolis called attention to the fact that his company was no longer granting free rides to blind persons. In a prepared statement to the press, the president of the company said: "It is only with extreme regret that we are withdrawing the privilege of free rides to blind persons, as three suits have been filed against the company by blind people riding free, totaling more than \$100,000.00." We feel that in none of these cases that we have mentioned were the blind persons entitled to anything, and that it was wrong for them to take advantage of legal technicalities to claim damages from such people.

I also hope that someone will come forward with the money and an idea or program for legislation that will build a home for the blind here in Southern California, as it has been proven that blind people can be happy and get along very well in a large hotel-style home, one with a good dining room and centrally located.

Yours for better homes for the blind,

Sincerely,

Will Bowman
Cordova Hotel
826 West 8th Street
Los Angeles, California

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

California Council Convenes. The Spring 1963 Convention of the California Council of the Blind will be held at the Hotel Senator, Sacramento, May 3, 4 and 5, according to announcement by Jim McGinnis, Council President.

A special feature of the Convention will be the banquet, to be held on the "Mansion Belle" -- a steamer on the Sacramento River. The banquet will be a part of a four-hour boat excursion on Saturday, May 4, which will open with a social hour followed by the dinner, dancing and games.

The emphasis at the convention will be on the passage of Council legislation and the study of proposed changes in programs serving the blind administered by the Departments of Education and Social Welfare.

* * * * *

Blind Readers Amendment. The following announcement with respect to the new legal provision for reader assistance in federal

government employment has been issued by the United States Civil Service Commission (under date of March 19, 1963):

"As a result of the enactment of Public Law 87-614 dated August 29, 1962, which authorized the use of readers for the blind, the following statement is added to all civil service examination announcements currently open for receipt of applications: Blind applicants who otherwise meet the physical requirements may be considered for any position the duties of which can be satisfactorily performed with the assistance of a reader. Reading assistance for blind employees is not provided by the employing agency. Readers may be volunteers or may be paid by the employee or a non-profit private organization."

* * * * *

AT&T Reports for Blind. The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has again made its Annual Report available in Braille and on records for share owners who are blind. This is the fourth straight year AT&T has produced the special versions of its Annual Report.

Copies of the Braille and record versions are available on request to the Secretary, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, 195 Broadway, New York 7, New York. They are being distributed by the Telephone Pioneers of America, the organization of long-service telephone people who work with the blind as one of their community service activities. Both the records and Braille books were produced by the Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky.

* * * * *

Dogs Aid Eye Research. Collies, a canine breed often affected by detachment of the retina, are aiding Stanford University scientists in their study of the visual condition which affects more and more Americans every year, according to a report in THE ASSOCIATED BLIND LEADER (publication of the Associated Blind of New Jersey).

Dr. Seymour R. Roberts and Dr. A. N. Delaporta of Stanford's Medical Center estimate that five percent of Americans, already blind, have detached retinas, the journal noted. The doctors expressed belief that the eye condition in collies may be hereditary, and that 30 percent of the breed in the U.S. have visual defects--with half of these probably fated to develop detachment with resulting blindness.

* * * * *

Center for Disturbed Blind Children. A demonstration project establishing a mental health center for disturbed blind children is under-way by the Jewish Guild for the Blind, a nonsectarian New York agency, with the help of a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (Department of Health, Education, and Welfare).

Covering a three-year period, the grant amounts to \$40,000 for the first year and \$77,000 for each of the subsequent two years, according to a report in THE NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND. The project will seek to make use of existing knowledge of the psychology of blind children in developing new educational, diagnostic and treatment methods.

Findings of the project will then be turned over to social agencies, schools and community clinics serving the disturbed blind children who cannot now be adequately taken care of in conventional schools and clinics. Mentally retarded and severely visually impaired youngsters up to 21 years of age may be referred from any state for diagnostic study by the Guild, the article pointed out.

* * * * *

A Comic Strip for the Blind. A comic strip, or comic book, designed to be "seen" by the blind has been inaugurated by the creator of "Snuffy Smith," Fred Lasswell of Tampa, Florida, according to a feature story in the Jacksonville TIMES-UNION (October 24, 1962).

The newspaper article noted that Lasswell had long resolved to make some contribution toward the welfare of the blind as the result of a boyhood experience. Thirty-five years ago, as a boy of 11, he lost his sight for two weeks following a firecracker explosion.

Years later, as a successful cartoonist (chosen the outstanding newspaper artist of the year last November), Lasswell reportedly wrote to his old scoutmaster in Florida asking what he might do within his special field to help the blind. Surprised to learn there were no comics for blind persons, he set to work for two years in his spare time to create a new concept in artistry that might enable the blind to "visualize" the comics.

Among other helpers, Lasswell was said to have turned to an old Jesuit priest, noted for his braille work, for assistance on the pioneering cartoon project. The result of their labor is today on file at the Library of Congress under the title, "This is Charlie" -- a sort of brailled picture code intended to be "seen" with the fingers.

* * * * *

"Seeing Fingers." A biography of Louis Braille for the younger reader has been written by Etta de Gering under the title, Seeing Fingers: The Story of Louis Braille. Published in 1962 by David McKay of New York, the book reportedly represents a simplification of a more adult treatment, The Reading Fingers, Life of Louis Braille, by Jean Roblin.

* * * * *

Talking Books Evaluated. THE NEW YORKER Magazine's "Reporter at Large" (Kevin Wallace) presented his views on the talking-book program of the Library of Congress in an article appearing in the November 3, 1962, issue of the magazine. His report covers interviews with librarians and officials involved in the program, along with a blind sculptress with whom the reporter listened to a recording of Marcel Proust's celebrated novel Swann's Way.

* * * * *

Nebraska's Jack Swager Weds. Jack Swager, president of the Nebraska state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, was married on December 8, 1962, to Miss Celia Cvitak. The couple reside at 6303 South 23rd Street, Omaha.

* * * * *

VA Hires More Handicapped. A record number of handicapped employees has been reported presently on the rolls of the Veterans Administration--a total of 12,250. The VA also maintains that it employs a higher proportion of handicapped persons than any other federal agency.

Noting that hiring of the handicapped is steadily on the rise both in his agency and elsewhere, VA Administrator John S. Gleason, Jr., declared recently that the trend "proves statistically what we can see from production figures. We are hiring more handicapped workers because they are qualified and make efficient and productive employees.

"For example," he continued, "among the best typists in the entire VA are the blind girls who work in our central electronic transcribing section."

* * * * *

AFB Research Bulletin. The American Foundation for the Blind recently published the second in a series of research bulletins containing both original manuscripts and previously published articles bearing on problems of visual impairment. Compiled by the AFB's Division of Research and Statistics, the latest bulletin (dated December, 1962) is made up of nine separate papers involving scientific and social-science research methods. Among the titles are: "A Study of Braille Code Revisions," by Gerald Francis Staack; "Personality and Attitudes of Blind Teen-Agers Learning Cane Travel," by Rosanne Kramer; "The Relationship Among Intelligence, Emotional Stability and Auditory Cues by the Blind," by David Winer, and "Psychosocial Research and Braille: The Need for a Program of Research and Development," by Milton D. Graham.

* * * * *

Asian Conference on Blind. The second Asian Conference on Work for the Blind will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, May 6-17, under the joint sponsorship of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind and the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, according to a report in THE NEW OUTLOOK. Twenty Asian nations will send two delegates apiece, one representing a governmental agency and the other a voluntary organization for the blind.

Theme of the Asian Conference reportedly is "The Blind of Asia--The Next Five Years." Among the subjects under discussion will be the admission of blind children into ordinary schools, provision for comprehensive adjustment and rehabilitation services, training the blind for modern-day employment, industrial workshops, resettlement of rural blind, and development of national and regional facilities for training qualified professional staff.

* * * * *

Maryland Leader Cited. Clarice R. Arnold, president of the Maryland Council of the Blind, has received a citation from Maryland Governor Tawes for her notable contributions in work with the handicapped over the past several years. Wearing a white orchid given to her by co-workers on the medical consultant staff of the social security agency, she lunched with a representative of the Governor and was informed that, in addition to the state citation, her name has been submitted to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for possible further recognition.

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THE BLIND AMERICAN

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BLIND AID SCANDAL IN INDIANA

Widespread defiance among Indiana counties of minimum standards governing the Aid to the Blind program has been alleged by representatives of the organized blind and all but admitted by a ranking official of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

In a recent exchange of letters the Washington office chief of the National Federation of the Blind, John F. Nagle, advised federal administrators of information received from numerous blind Indianans to the effect that "needs standards are determined in accordance with county 'poor relief' standards and that since these standards vary from county to county, blind-aid grants vary accordingly."

He pointed out that such practice clearly violates the requirement that "a state plan for blind aid must be approved by the federal government, and must have equal force and application throughout an entire state."

Urging that the Department of HEW take immediate action to eliminate these inequities "which are causing grievous hardship to needy blind people," Nagle concluded his letter with the observation:

"Perhaps Indiana's average blind-aid payment of \$59.16 -- \$10.16 below the national average -- which at best can only provide a very marginal living to blind-aid recipients, is explained by the dominance of the county 'poor relief' standards in Indiana's federally-supported blind-aid program, and the failure of the state welfare agency to enforce and give statewide effect to its federally-approved blind-aid plan."

In reply to Nagle's letter, Assistant HEW Secretary Wilbur J. Cohen in effect conceded that Indiana had failed to maintain uniform aid standards, and indicated that necessary "corrective action" would be taken. The partial text of Cohen's letter follows:

"You are correct in your understanding that the provisions of the Social Security Act require statewide equitable administration of the aid to the blind program based on standards and policies uniformly applied throughout the State. The Indiana approved State plan for the administration of aid to the blind contains the standards of assistance which are to be used in determining need and the amount of payment in that program. There is no provision in the plan for the use of county 'poor relief' standards.

"As you may know, Indiana is one of the States where there has been a strong tradition of local administration. While progressive improvement has been made, it has been slower than many States in really having the uniform standards provided by its State plan.

"We have asked the Bureau of Family Services representative in our Chicago office to inquire into this situation and to request the Indiana State Department of Public Welfare to take any corrective action necessary to bring practice in line with the State plan."

LOOK'S GRIM VIEW OF WELFARE

It's still the Old LOOK . . .

LOOK Magazine, which a year and a half ago turned its anguished gaze upon "the scandal of welfare chiseling" -- and left the impression that our national programs of social security are nothing but a monumental boondoggle (see THE BLIND AMERICAN, November, 1961) -- has done it again.

Its issue of March 26, 1963, features a kindred article, "The Grim State of Welfare," calculated to shock the uninformed reader and to reduce the vastly complicated issues of welfare programing to the sensational black-and-white of journalistic "exposure."

Author of this documentary nightmare is Julius Horwitz, described by the magazine as a "consultant on public welfare to the New York State Senate Majority Leader." What is not indicated is that the majority leader in question is none other than State Senator John Wise, whose wildly irrational scattergun attacks upon every significant public welfare principle enacted in the last half-century place him somewhat to the right of Queen Elizabeth the First. (For an extended commentary on his position, see "The Attack on Welfare: A Case Study," THE BLIND AMERICAN, September, 1962.)

Consultant Horwitz, a sometime novelist and onetime social worker, now proves able to outshine his master at the arts of old-fashioned melodrama. His article, concerned principally with the

welfare programs of New York City, notes that some nine thousand employees work for the city's Department of Public Welfare. "Many of the social-service workers are in the process of resigning; the conflict between the utopian aims of New York State's Social Welfare Law and the realities they face daily in their territories has left them shattered and helpless."

What are these "utopian aims" of the state welfare law? It is, says Horwitz, "a marvelously conceived document that spells out the American dream of total security. It charges the state with complete responsibility for all the needs of life, excepting Golden Books for children and contraceptive information for adults."

That passage strikes the clever note which characterizes much of the article -- one of heavy-handed ridicule and hardly disguised contempt for the public undertaking of welfare, interspersed with flashes of a curious "moral" indignation. For Author Horwitz wishes to have his cake and eat it too; his article seeks to condemn the welfare programers both for doing too much and for not doing enough. He contrives somehow to give the impression of pleading humanely for the needy and underprivileged while savagely biting the hand that aids them.

"For many of the aged, the disabled and the unemployed," he declares, "public assistance is an immediate alternative to catastrophe. But what happens to the lives of tens of thousands of children, the aged and the disabled is so contrary to the law that the 'dream of security' becomes a terrifying nightmare. And as long as inexhaustible funds are available to house children -- if house is the word -- to spoon-feed the aged into canvas mortuary sacks, to prop up the disabled and to file away the unemployed, 360,000 human beings will continue to be paraded as statistical icons by the Department of Welfare."

And why is this the case? "Because the Department of Welfare has not dared to admit, publicly and with candor, the enormity of the social problems it faces, problems for which it assumed a fatuous and dangerous responsibility."

This is strong and bitter language, surely. But what does it mean? It means that the assumption by the city and state of New York of a responsibility to feed the needy aged, to "prop up" the disabled, and to assist its helpless and impoverished children -- that all of this is "fatuous and dangerous." It would seem that the welfare department has far too much responsibility and much too much money

("inexhaustible funds") -- and yet somehow has failed to face up to the enormous social problems it has to deal with. The conclusion can only be that the department would cope more effectively with its enormous problems if it had fewer funds and less responsibility. How this magical feat might be accomplished Horwitz does not, of course, divulge. His assignment is not to help in the solution of the problem but to attack those who are trying to solve it; to cast suspicion on their motives and aims, to undermine public confidence in the law and philosophy of welfare.

"How do you stop the institutionalized welfare slums?" asks Horwitz in mock horror. "...What do you do with welfare slums hidden in blocks of crumbling, hacked-up, emasculated apartment houses, when they are protected by the guilt and fear of the Department of Welfare?"

Nowhere does he answer his own questions. But the answer, on his terms, is not hard to make out. Senator Wise for one has stated it again and again, in the crystal-clear language of invective. What you must do is to cut off the "inexhaustible funds" of the guilty and fearful welfare department -- cut down its "shattered and helpless" staff of workers -- and cut out its utopian programs of assistance and rehabilitation, of job training and counseling, of psychiatric aid and family counseling. Stop spoon-feeding the indigent aged; let them forage for themselves or go under. Cease propping up the disabled; let the human chips fall where they may. As for ANC -- suffer not the little children to come unto you.

That is the way of true progress -- back to the golden (tax-free) age of the poor laws and the almshouse.

Do away altogether with the "fatuous and dangerous responsibility" of public welfare to assist the deprived and disadvantaged toward the "utopian" goal of self-support and self-care. Point an accusing finger not at the "enormity" and terrible complexity of the problems of human welfare -- problems not only of poverty but of conflicting mores and cultural maladjustment, of prejudice and public ignorance. Point rather, in righteous scorn and spurious anger, at the sadly undermanned and overworked rescue squadrons of welfare workers who are laboring to impose some minimum standards of decency and health -- and to salvage a modicum of order out of the social confusion which the attacks of the Majority Leader, and his imaginative assistant, are doing so much to perpetuate.

FATHER SUTCLIFFE: A BROTHER TO OTHERS

By Anthony G. Mannino

Last summer, in the course of a nation-wide lecture tour, Father Harry J. Sutcliffe, director of the Episcopal Guild for the Blind, spent several days in southern California fulfilling business and speaking engagements connected with his work. Even in the limited time of a most enjoyable afternoon visit at the Brotherhood office, we were deeply impressed by the magnetism of his personality, fine stature and obvious physical fitness. His understanding and knowledge of the needs of blind persons, and his keen insight and wisdom in the broad area of services to the blind, reveal a sincere interest in organizations of and for the blind. Answering a question asked by James B. Garfield, while a guest on Jim's radio show, Father Sutcliffe made this most pertinent observation:

"Creed must be manifested by deed; word must be manifested by work. Those of us who are blind live and hope for the day when people will think of us as, first of all, persons with courage, fears, aspirations and talent: think of us as active productive citizens in the community, brothers with you, brothers with every one in the great work of helping push this world nearer toward the time when we will be realizing the prophetic vision of nations no longer learning war, the time when swords will really be beaten into plow-shares."

Blind at birth in 1925, Father Sutcliffe grew up in Brooklyn, New York. At that time public school education for blind children was not what it is today, so when he reached school age the youngster was enrolled at the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, a residential school. While there, he was not sensationally outstanding in his studies, nor does he claim any great record of achievements that might have singled him out from the other students. He modestly admits that he was asked to be the commencement speaker at the school this past summer, substituting for President Kennedy, who had to cancel the commitment.

At the age of thirteen the young student became interested in amateur radio, and by the time he was sixteen was a confirmed "ham" operator. He did a great deal of reading of technical material on the subject and studied under the expert teaching of Bob Gunderson, well-known teacher of the blind. During World War II there were fifteen or twenty amateur radio operators at the school, who worked for the

Radio Intelligence Division of the Federal Communications Commission, engaged in recording propaganda broadcasts. Young Sutcliffe also worked for the War Emergencies Radio Services of the Office of Civilian Defense of New York, covering telephone failures resulting from attack or other emergencies. For his participation in this important work he was awarded a citation by the late Fiorello LaGuardia, then Mayor of New York City.

Graduated from the New York Institute in 1944, Father Sutcliffe enrolled as a freshman at Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio. He was an excellent student at college and was soon recognized as a leader, both scholastically and in campus activities. His mind found interest in a wide range of subjects and languages -- with major concentration on history and political science. Asked why he later went into the ministry when it seemed that he was not actually preparing for it, he replies that these studies and experience provided an excellent foundation for the vocation he chose and the work he has done since.

In college class work, Father Sutcliffe recalls that he had to rely on his own ability to take braille notes to provide himself with study and theme material he might need later. Braille machines and recorders were as yet too cumbersome and noisy. He remembers that the clicking of his braille stylus in class soon became a signal for the other students to start taking notes also. It became something of a ritual for everyone to sit quietly listening to the professor's discourse until the Sutcliffe stylus began to click. Then the pens and pencils of the other members of the class would start writing.

Because of his high scholastic standing he was elected to many of the honorary societies. Among these were the German language Delta Phi Alpha, music honorary Phi Mu Alpha Symphonia, scholastic Phi Eta Sigma, national Blue Key honorary, political science Pi Sigma Alpha and romance language Phi Sigma Iota.

After four years of scholastic excellence, Father Sutcliffe was graduated from Wittenberg College in 1948. He had already decided upon the priesthood for his life's work, so the next school term found him on the student roll at Mt. Airy Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In his seminary studies he specialized in exegetical theology, the study of sacred scriptures with Hebrew and Aramaic. He was graduated from Mt. Airy Seminary in 1951 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, and was ordained a priest of the Episcopal Church the following year.

His first assignment was an Assyrian parish of the ancient

church in Chicago, where he served for two years on the staff of Assyrian Patriarchal Pro-Cathedral of Mar Sargis as director of religious education and youth work. He wrote a monograph entitled, "The Church of the East" -- a history of the doctrines, organization, customs and liturgical practices of this small but ancient body of Christendom which still worships in Aramaic. There followed other publications of historical material and research dealing with the lesser Eastern churches.

For some time the Episcopal Church had felt it should be doing more for its blind communicants by way of furnishing literature in braille and recorded form. Father Sutcliffe was asked to initiate a program for this purpose. This was the beginning of the Episcopal Guild for the Blind, a subdivision of the American Church Union, which is a missionary and educational organization of the Episcopal Church. With his personal knowledge of the needs of the blind, Father Sutcliffe began to build a program designed to provide brailled and recorded church literature. It was immediately obvious that it was going to be an expansive undertaking that would include other special services for blind persons -- one that would demand expert and efficient leadership. Father Sutcliffe was named director of the Episcopal Guild for the Blind, and before long found himself exploring available services and resources in given areas of work for the blind. Counseling of the highest caliber and case work with the personal interest of a devoted friend became a part of the Guild's function. As a result, in just a few years the Guild has grown to become a respected and valuable service organization.

Under the direction of this blind religious leader, other blind people are wisely and effectively guided into vocations of their own choosing. Educational aids are quietly being provided for those who need help in their endeavor to better themselves. It is because of Father Sutcliffe's experience and interest in the recording field that the Guild has been able to keep pace with the latest trends and techniques in this area of service to blind persons. At the present time preparations are being made to convert to any technical development that might be decided upon in the field of long-playing records and tape-recordings.

Despite Father Sutcliffe's varied responsibilities with the Episcopal Guild, he somehow finds time to lend his services to other organizations in projects in which he can provide valuable help. From his own office he serves as an instructor for the Hadley School for the Blind of Winnetka, Illinois, supervising the correspondence courses in Greek and Hebrew. In connection with the Hadley program, he is

at present rewriting the school's Bible survey course, with additional chapters on later developments such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and other archeological discoveries.

Sharing his mastery of the language with those who need it, he also teaches Hebrew and Hebrew braille at the Jewish Braille Institute in New York. He contributes time and effort in helping to resolve various social problems arising in the community, state and nation. In connection with the many phases of his work on behalf of his fellow man, Father Sutcliffe is in great demand as a speaker for the national organization of B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League.

On February 24, 1959, he was awarded the Benjamin S. Pouzzner Lodge of B'nai B'rith "Man of the Year Award" in Lowell, Massachusetts. (Previous recipients of this award have been His Eminence Cardinal Cushing, Mr. Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP, and handless war veteran Harold Russell.) Since then, numerous affiliates of B'nai B'rith in major cities across the nation have conferred significant awards of merit upon this humanitarian leader of the Episcopal Guild for the Blind. There is universal recognition of his work in teaching Hebrew and Hebrew braille to sightless persons of the Jewish faith who wish to participate actively in the liturgical service of the synagogue through the use of the Siddur, the prayer book, which has been transcribed into braille and published by the Jewish Braille Institute. A highly appreciated honor was given to him in his home town of Brooklyn on the evening of February 16, 1961, when Flatbush Lodge No. 190 of the Free Sons of Israel presented him with the "Founder Meyer Jacobs Award."

By word and deed, Father Sutcliffe reveals his affirmation and support of the efforts of the organized blind as they seek to participate in education, rehabilitation and welfare programs and to make their voices heard in the determination of these programs. He has emphasized this belief with undeniable sincerity in these words: "With every bit of conviction at my command, I say that organizations of the blind are of inestimable value. The organized blind movement must go forward because blind persons must be able to verbalize and articulate their feelings through some definite channels."

In summarizing the reasons for his own efforts on behalf of the blind, he maintains that if "work for the blind" -- a wonderful phrase which sometimes covers a multitude of sins -- is truly sincere in its wish to see blind persons integrated into the community, then the agencies and groups who represent work for the blind will not

fight the organized blind movement.

Of Father Sutcliffe it may truly be said: his creed is manifested by deed and his word is manifested by work. Even more, he is a brother to others.

A RESOLUTION ON EMPLOYMENT OF HANDICAPPED

A bold resolution urging California's state government to take the lead in setting nondiscriminatory employment standards for the handicapped -- specifically by opening state civil service jobs to all eligible applicants "regardless of apparent handicap" -- was among the progressive features of the report on "Rehabilitation Workshops for the Handicapped" recently submitted by the State Senate's Fact-Finding Committee on Governmental Administration. (For details of the report, see "California Senate Committee Hits Workshops," THE BLIND AMERICAN, March, 1963.)

The text of the committee's proposed resolution follows:

"WHEREAS, Evidence shows that:

"a. Handicapped workers perform as well as, or better than, able-bodied workers, in both quality and quantity of work produced;

"b. Handicapped workers have a lower rate of turnover;

"c. Handicapped workers have fewer lost-time accidents, although their frequency rate is slightly higher;

"d. Handicapped workers' absentee records compare favorably with those of the nonhandicapped; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the State of California adopt as a portion of its personnel policy a statement recognizing government's proper role as the model employer, setting the pace and standards of enlightened personnel policies for the rest of the State; and be it further

"Resolved, That the State Personnel Board be requested to adopt regulations assuring every applicant, regardless of apparent handicap who is otherwise eligible, the right to take examinations, oral interviews, and to be considered for positions within the state civil service; and be it further

"Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to every county, city, school district, and special district in the State, urging them to adopt similar personnel policies and procedures."

MEET THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND

(Editor's note: In recent issues THE BLIND AMERICAN has presented biographical articles on two outstanding leaders of the organized blind: Russell Kletzing, President of the National Federation of the Blind, and Kenneth Jernigan, the NFB's First Vice President. Meanwhile, the National Federation has published [January 1963] a revised edition of its official publication, "Who Are the Blind Who Lead the Blind?" which contains the biographies of all present officers and board members. As part of our policy of acquainting readers with prominent personalities in the field of work with the blind, we shall reprint the biographical sketches of other NFB leaders in this and subsequent issues. Below are the "profiles" of Donald Capps, Second Vice President; Franklin VanVliet, Treasurer, and Mrs. Eulassee Hardenbergh, Secretary.)

DONALD C. CAPPS

Second Vice President

Few more compelling examples of personal independence and social contribution could be found among blind Americans than that of the NFB's second vice president, Donald C. Capps of Columbia, South Carolina. Past president of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind (1956-1960), he has served since 1960 as first vice president of the state organization, which is an affiliate of the National Federation. Capps was elected to his present NFB office in 1959, re-elected in 1960 for a two-year term, and again returned to office in 1962.

Born in 1928, Capps did not become legally blind until 1954, although he possessed a congenital eye defect. He attended the South Carolina School for the Blind and later its public schools. Following his graduation from high school he immediately enrolled in Draughon's Business College in Columbia; and upon receiving his business diploma he joined the Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company of Columbia as a claims examiner trainee. He is presently in his sixteenth year with the insurance firm, and for the past ten years has held the responsible position of assistant manager of the claims department -- a post which requires the supervision of nine employees and his personal processing of some 15,000 claims each year, totalling well over a million dollars.

Capps first became interested in the organized blind movement in 1953, and by the following year had been elected president of the Columbia chapter of the Aurora Club, which he headed for two years before assuming the leadership of the state organization. The extent of his contribution may be measured by the success of the Aurora Club's legislative program since its inception in 1956. During the following six years the organization has been responsible for an increase of \$76,000 in the state's appropriation for cash assistance to the needy blind -- an advance which was won over the strenuous opposition of the state public welfare officials. Among other improvements, Capps' organization has achieved an extra exemption on state income tax and an amendment to the South Carolina vending stand law making the blind priority in employment mandatory rather than merely permissive.

Capps' energies as a leader have not been confined to the performance of his official duties, productive and time-consuming as they are. Among other activities he is editor of the PALMETTO AURORAN, the excellent quarterly publication of the Aurora Club whose articles are frequently reprinted in national journals for the blind. In 1960 Capps directed a campaign which led to construction of the Columbia chapter's \$35,000 education and training center; he now serves as executive director and chairman of the board of trustees of the flourishing Aurora Center. In this role he has been instrumental in setting up a braille switchboard training facility and laying plans for its full-time operation. In addition, Capps has served for eight years as the very successful fund-raising chairman of the Columbia chapter.

The role which Capps has played in the organized blind movement of his state, as well as of the nation, is aptly symbolized by the "Donald C. Capps Award," a cash gift presented annually to

an outstanding blind Carolinian. The Capps Award was created in 1961 by Ways and Means for the Blind of Augusta, Georgia, whose president is Hubert E. Smith.

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FRANKLIN VAN VLIET

Treasurer

Dairy farmer, musician, independent businessman, electronics technician, Sunday-school teacher, radio operator, politician -- and Federation treasurer -- these are only a few of the manifold activities met and mastered during the active career of Franklin VanVliet of Concord, New Hampshire. In addition to his leadership role in the National Federation, he is president of the New Hampshire Federation of the Blind, an office to which he has been elected and re-elected through three successive ballotings since 1958.

Born into a small New Hampshire farming community in 1922, VanVliet lost the sight of one eye as the result of an accident at the age of seven, and gradually lost his remaining vision over the next decade through sympathetic ophthalmia. By an irony of fate, his father was for many years state supervisor of services to the blind. Franklin completed elementary schooling at Massachusetts' Perkins School for the Blind; but the death of his father forced him to leave high school and go to work as boy-of-all-trades on a dairy farm.

After two years VanVliet left the farm for an industrial job with the state-operated workshop in Concord, New Hampshire. He next found employment in the field of his greatest interest, electronics, with a Manchester firm producing wartime technical equipment for the Navy. Following the war, falling victim to the mass layoffs of industry, he took a job as parts manager with the state highway department.

A lifelong desire to operate his own business was realized for VanVliet in 1952, when he opened a shop specializing in manufacture and sale of various types of automotive upholstery and equipment. Although the business was on the way to a flourishing success, it later came up against unbeatable competition from a large chain store which entered the local field. Forced to lay off his help and close his doors, VanVliet chose to turn adversity into new opportunity -- by returning

to school to master the intricate science of electronics. He attended the Radio Engineering Institute of Omaha, Nebraska, graduating in 1955 with a radio technician's diploma, and returned to Concord where he has since made a successful career as an electronics specialist.

Besides his major concentration on the sales and installation of electronic organs and master antenna systems, VanVliet holds a commercial radio operator's license and is currently engaged in a program of self-training in microwave transmission in order to broaden his already wide field of competence. Something of the variety of his skills is illustrated by a recent undertaking in which he prepared the blueprints and supervised the entire construction of a 500-seat tabernacle in Maine.

Married in 1946 to Miss Gertrude Goodwin, the NFB's indefatigable treasurer today divides his "free" time between Sunday-school teaching, church organ-playing, and a vigorous outdoor life centering around VanVliet's summer cabin. In 1958 he campaigned unsuccessfully for the Concord office of alderman, and now has thoughts of running for a state position once held by his father -- that of Representative to the General Court.

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EULASEE S. HARDENBERGH

Secretary

Eulasee S. (Mrs. Gordon) Hardenbergh of Birmingham, Alabama, brings to her position as the NFB's secretary a decade of active experience in the organized blind movement of her state and nation. Elected to the presidency of the Alabama Federation of the Blind in 1956, she has been re-elected in each year thereafter -- concrete testimony to her dynamic leadership in securing needed legislation and promoting the welfare of the state's blind population. On the national level, she was chosen by the NFB in 1960 for a position on its Board of Directors, and two years later won election to her present executive post.

Born in Columbiana, Alabama, Mrs. Hardenbergh was attending high school in Birmingham when she lost her sight and was forced to transfer to the Alabama School for the Blind at Talledega. In 1930 she was married, and has one son who is today a practicing ophthalmologist.

A past president of the Alabama Federation's Birmingham chapter, Mrs. Hardenbergh continues to serve as White Cane Chairman for the western section of Birmingham County, as well as of the county's White Cane Scholarship Committee which has established two scholarships for blind children of the area.

In 1959 Mrs. Hardenbergh was one of 21 witnesses chosen by the National Federation of the Blind to testify before a committee of Congress holding hearings on legislation to protect the right of the blind to organize. Recently nominated as "woman of the year" by the Emblem Club of Ensley (Birmingham), she also served as chairman for Alabama of the Helen Keller 80th Birthday Committee.

A CONSTRUCTIVE DISSENT

By Dr. Floyd W. Matson

(Editor's note: The following talk by the editor of THE BLIND AMERICAN was delivered on April 10, 1963, in the course of a program on social issues -- entitled "Dissent" -- broadcast by San Francisco's educational television station, KQED.)

My dissent is both an accusation and a defense. What I wish to defend is the institution of public welfare -- its philosophy, its programs, and the spirit of its laws. And what I shall accuse is the rising anti-welfare movement which now reaches across the nation, from Newburgh in New York to Alameda County in California -- and which threatens the security of our society because it is aimed at the heart of our social security.

This movement bespeaks a counter-revolution in social thought -- a revolution of nihilism -- whose purpose is nothing less than to roll back and nullify the progressive advance of conscience and responsibility which has culminated in our modern philosophy and law of welfare.

For the modern law of welfare this movement would substitute the ancient law of crime and punishment. Like its shadowy companions

of the Minutemen, the book-burners, and the Rod-and-Birch societies, it seeks to whip down the needs of the defenseless and disadvantaged as it whips up the fears of the comfortable. It begins with a clean-up, but ends in a crackdown. It brings to the community and the nation not peace but a sword.

The secret password of this movement is: "When you hear the word 'welfare', reach for your revolver."

Do I exaggerate? Look at the record. In counties up and down our state -- among them those of Alameda and Santa Clara -- night raids have been launched against the homes of welfare recipients -- mass raids involving hundreds of families instigated without warning and without specific cause -- dawn patrols manned by reluctant social workers who have been drafted into the forced march on pain of dismissal. (You may remember the blind case worker over in Oakland who was fired a couple of months ago for refusing to join such a raiding party.) All this for the announced purpose of flushing male companions from the homes of mothers whose needy children were receiving aid. And if the men were found, as a few were -- why, then the children were punished, by taking the food from their mouths.

Others of our counties have practiced other methods of dealing with those citizens poor enough, weak enough, or downright mean enough to seek help from their community. Among these devices is the lie detector, used on the assumption that the applicant for public aid must be a cheat . . . the blood test to establish the parentage of children needing help . . . the injunction to welfare mothers that they must work or be jailed, regardless of the state of their health or the need of the children for their presence . . . and, of course, the routine police precautions (common in the annals of crime and rascality) of mugging and fingerprinting those who venture to apply for public assistance.

Other punishments, much more cruel than these, are not unusual in our state. There isn't time to enumerate them all -- the coercions and threats, the arbitrary discontinuance of essential aid, the contemptuous disregard of every right, immunity and privilege of citizenship once thought to be secured by constitutional sanction.

But one more illustration. A county district attorney in our fair state has publicly urged the sterilization of welfare mothers who continue to bear illegitimate children, as well as of fathers of more than one family who show unwillingness to support them. And

this same Good Samaritan has even speculated aloud that it might be well if the legislature would give some thought to the application of euthanasia in such cases. Dare we assume that the D. A. did not mean what he said?

I trust this is enough by way of illustration to make my point, which is that the new and humane law of social welfare -- a law based on faith in human beings as well as on hope and charity toward them -- is in process of being invaded and ravaged by another and alien law: the oldest law of all, the law of crimes, which is founded not on faith but on suspicion, not on hope but contempt, not on charity but on retaliation and revenge.

The test of any modern civilization, the final measure of its quality, is not how it treats the comfortable majority but rather how it treats the uncomfortable minorities among its citizens -- and not only the minorities of color but all the minorities of underprivilege and deprivation, of misfortune and disability. "For whatsoever thou doest unto the least of these, thou doest even so unto me."

The measure of a civilization, then, is not to be found in its quantity of things but in its quality of mercy. And to mercy may be added something more: opportunity. For what the vast majority of those in need most urgently require is simply opportunity -- the chance to get off the precarious margins of society and into its mainstream, to be integrated and assimilated and independent.

If this is our commitment, we must end once and for all the guilty and barbaric practice of punishing the poor for their poverty; of cursing the meek for their lack of spirit; of accusing the lame because they are not upright; the halt because they have been immobilized -- and the blind for their inexcusable failure of vision.

By all means let us eliminate the vestiges of fraud that do exist in our welfare system. Let us get rid of the few chiselers, as we do in any other activity. But let's not throw out the baby of welfare with this dirty bathwater. Let us remember that that is in truth what welfare is -- an infant -- a tender, novel, dependent and delicate spirit born of the meeting of Christian charity with democratic equalitarianism. And if we do not take steps to save it, that child will surely die from the beating it has absorbed -- or else it will be turned into a monster, at the hands of monsters.

THE HANDICAPPED IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

By K. Vernon Banta

(Editor's note: Mr. Banta retired on April 1, 1963, from his position as Deputy Executive Secretary of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, a post he had held since 1949. He was recently honored by the National Rehabilitation Association as recipient of the W. F. Faulkes Award -- presented to him as the "guiding force of a bold new nationwide program to make the public buildings of America fully accessible to handicapped citizens everywhere," as well as for his development of selective placement techniques for handicapped workers in industry and the public service. The abridged article which follows was first presented as an address at the annual conference of the Public Personnel Association, November 15, 1962.)

Twelve years ago the Public Service Committee of the President's Committee was organized with Edward L. Cushman and Ken Warner serving as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. In that period, great changes have taken place in the policies and practices of hiring authorities in all areas of government -- Federal, State and local -- dealing with employment of the handicapped. These changes affecting the handicapped have without doubt influenced changes in attitudes and practices in dealing with other groups of our labor force.

It is significant to repeat that the program of the Public Service Committee -- and of course that of the President's Committee -- has been based upon the principle of equality of opportunity. Special preferences have had no place in the proposals of the Committee or the Recommended Policy which was the first tool developed for the program. We hear much today about "discrimination." It is not our plan to practice discrimination by preference.

Fair competition in the labor market is the right of every qualified job applicant. Fair competition is what we seek for the handicapped in the public service. Fair competition is denied the job seeker who must pass a hurdle unrelated to job performance or job safety, or to pass an examination used solely as a screen to reduce the number of competitors, or take a test in which his physical limitations preclude a fair trial....

Early in 1951 -- eleven years ago -- a Recommended Policy for employment of the handicapped for the guidance of public administrators was developed by the Public Service Committee. This was not the brain child of a single staff member but was thoroughly analyzed, reviewed, and revised by many experts in public administration. Many personnel officers had an opportunity to look it over and to influence the final copy.

Details of the Policy have been changed as experience taught us, but the basic principles have remained the same. The first version was released by the White House on August 28, 1954, and became the first positive policy statement issued in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government for the guidance of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, the heads of the Federal Departments and Agencies, and all hiring authorities in the Federal Government service.

In an effort to implement more effectively the Policy in everyday hiring practice, and to equalize opportunity in application, examination, certification, and consideration, the Federal Departments and Agencies were directed in 1957 to designate one top personnel staff member to serve as a coordinator for the handicapped. Coordinators were also to be named for bureaus and divisions and other organizational units to serve a similar purpose.

The coordinators are assigned responsibility for interviewing job candidates who are handicapped and to give special consideration to insure full opportunity to compete for existing or future job vacancies.

Coordinators for the handicapped were also directed to give special attention to employees who acquire disabilities to employees who acquire disabilities on or off the job to be certain that full consideration is given in rehabilitation, reassignment, transfer, or disability retirement. We are told that over 3,000 coordinators have now been named in all the establishments of the Federal Government over the Nation.

Success of the coordinator program probably rests first, upon the extent to which the policy has been accepted by all officials in the hiring chain, and second, to the extent to which the coordinator understands and accepts his responsibilities. However, the overriding condition promising success or failure is the extent to which the department or agency head has made the policy his policy and has lent the weight of his authority to implementation.

In the Federal Government, it is probably safe to say that equal opportunity in employment of the handicapped will vary from section to section, from division to division, from bureau to bureau and, lastly, from agency to agency. Some departments have made an outstanding record. A few probably have unenviable records. The statistics for all departments and agencies are available but statistics tell only part of the story. It is possible to build up a striking record in figures but when the individual appointments are noted the figures are not so noteworthy.

It is fair to say that the Federal Government generally has done an outstanding job in the past two decades in revising a tight physical standard policy and practice to give greater opportunity for the handicapped in Federal employment. Obstacles still exist which will need to be exposed and corrected before equal opportunity is a fact for all types of handicapped workers.

No survey of accomplishments in the State governments has been made since the one reported in 1960. However, we are learning that increasing numbers of the States have adopted the Recommended Policy usually without change. Some of the States like New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania have, also, adopted procedures which provide for cooperation by State vocational rehabilitation and employment service agencies in determining suitability of the positions and the physical capabilities of the job applicants. Reports indicate this procedure has worked out very well.

A very few States have established some preferences for the handicapped. In the case of disabled veterans this policy has been accepted generally in both Federal and State jurisdictions as a fair practice in view of sacrifices made in the defense of our Nation. The Congress of the United States and the legislative bodies of many States and local governing bodies have made it the policy of their jurisdictions, and we have no quarrel with those policies. However, as previously stated, the Public Service Committee has not recommended preferential treatment for other handicapped except as special services may be needed in order to offset the handicap imposed by disability. Equal opportunity would be meaningless without compensating considerations.

The municipal administrator has not been as easy to reach as State administrative heads. Probably that is the reason we have a dearth of information relative to progress in this area of the public service. But we do know of several city and county governments

that have developed outstanding programs.

It was my privilege a year or so ago to visit the Departments of Personnel in Los Angeles city and county and in the city of San Francisco. The programs in Los Angeles were especially interesting and bear investigation by jurisdictions planning changes in physical standards. Both administrators are making continuous reviews to correct, expand and revise procedures and practices to improve services. The system in San Francisco, while not so far along as in the sister city of Los Angeles, is rapidly developing and promises to be another example of good public personnel practice....

The public school systems are another area of government service which are a concern of the Public Service Committee. While the attitudes, fears, and policies have not always been so deep-seated as some other jurisdictions, the dispersion of authority and responsibility make reaching all hiring officials a much more complex and difficult problem. But we believe through the actions of the Public Service Committee and the cooperating agencies, organizations, and individuals, considerable results have already been accomplished. The President's Committee's writing contest has done much to stimulate interest among educators. A brochure, prepared and released by the Committee, addressed to school administrators, has reached a high percentage of school people and we believe has had much influence in changing attitudes and policies.

In higher education some colleges and universities -- notably the University of Illinois -- have adopted policies of admitting severely handicapped students who have a good potential for professional vocations. A principal barrier which has excluded many good student prospects are built-in architectural features of buildings and other structures -- steps, stairways, and narrow doorways -- which the physically handicapped, particularly those in wheelchairs, cannot overcome. The University of Illinois through an extensive ramp-building program has solved this problem to the advantage of all students....

Not all the barriers which screen out the handicapped in our public school systems can be attributed to the prejudices or lack of understanding of school administrators. A few jurisdictions are saddled with restrictive regulations and laws which must be repealed or amended to remove unrealistic and unnecessary requirement. The NEW YORK TIMES recently ran a story about the New York City Department of Education regulations. The article stated that

physical standards ruled out women less than 58 inches and men less than 60 inches tall; teachers who have less than 20/30 vision in the worse eye, with or without glasses, as are all teachers who have arm disabilities, or use crutches or wheelchairs or hearing aids. Through the representations of the New York Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and other groups in the city, an ad hoc committee has been named to take a look at the policies and revise them -- not downward but outward -- to admit the well-qualified with and without disabilities.

In summary, there have been gradual but significant changes in the policies and practices of placement officers in employing the handicapped at all levels of Government -- Federal, State, and local. These changes have not adversely affected production nor have personnel benefits, wage rates, and other considerations in employment been adversely affected. It is our modest claim that the actions of the Public Service Committee have had some influence in the changes which have taken place.

MICHIGAN SEMINAR FOR BLIND TUNERS

By Stanley Oliver

(Editor's note: Mr. Oliver is a member of the board and legislative chairman of the Michigan Council of the Blind, and serves as editor of the Council's braille and print magazine, THE EYE-OPENER. He is also a member of the executive committee of the National Federation of the Blind.)

The Michigan Association of Workers for the Blind, under the leadership of President Jack Chard, is pleased to announce the organization of a comprehensive seminar for active blind piano tuners, from June 17 through June 21. The seminar will be held at the Michigan School for the Blind -- several acres of beautiful grounds and buildings located in Lansing, the state capitol. School superintendent Dr. Robert Thompson extends a hearty welcome to every visitor. Dr. Thompson is a former national president of the American Association of

Instructors for the Blind, and now serves on the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind; he is one of the most inspiring figures in the field of special education, and we are glad to have Bob on hand throughout the seminar.

Costs of board and lodging for the entire period will be fifteen dollars. New buildings and equipment make the facilities one of the most modern in the nation. Among the features accessible for spare-time recreation are: several bowling alleys, elaborate swimming pool, extensive physical fitness gym equipment, and accoustically treated gym with a "sound fence" for safe roller skating, etc. There will be ample guide service if needed. If it is necessary for you to bring along your spouse, a similar charge will be added.

Subjects covered will include tuning pointers from our factory speedsters, illustration and comment from those working with concert artists, trouble-shooting and work techniques, factors important to organizing small business, restoration and regulation of grands and spinets, professional language, poise and ethics, along with technical question-answer sessions daily.

Sessions will be held mornings, afternoons, and evenings, with program talks in the evening. Among instructors will be leading personnel from three piano factories in Michigan, plus Michigan State University and Wayne University. Irwin Otto of New York, leading personality in seminar work of the Piano Technician's Guild, Sid Durfee of Perkins Institute, and Everett Oddie of the Braille Piano Technicians, have expressed their willingness to make this program helpful.

If you wish to attend, please write at once to Jesse Manley, Tuning Department, Michigan School for the Blind, 715 W. Willow Street, Lansing, Michigan. Include your pre-payment check for board and lodging. A fully detailed schedule of sessions and directors is now being worked up and will be forwarded as soon as completed to registrants. Here is a golden opportunity to expand technical know-how in the pleasant surroundings of a top-flight educational institution.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Connecticut Blind Convene. William Hogan was re-elected president of the Connecticut Federation of the Blind at the organization's annual convention on March 31. Other officers chosen were George Cone, Vice President; Jane Virgulto, Secretary; Stanley Virgulto, Treasurer; Henry Istas, Legislative Chairman; John Standish and George Cone as board members. Bill Hogan was elected to head the group's delegation to the national convention this year, with Stanley Virgulto and George Cone as alternate delegates. In other convention action, the C.F.B. voted to send a contribution of ten dollars to THE BLIND AMERICAN as a gesture of support for the magazine's work on behalf of the blind. (The contribution is hereby gratefully acknowledged.)

* * * * *

Iowa Association to Meet. The Iowa Association of the Blind will hold its annual convention June 7 through June 9 at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, according to information from IAB President William Klontz. Rates are set at \$2.25 per day. Ray Dinsmore, President of the Indiana Federation of the Blind, will be a principal speaker at the Saturday morning session. Other speakers will include Kenneth Jernigan, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind and first vice-president of the N.F.B.; Lee Iverson, superintendent of the Iowa School, and Don Walker, the school's principal. The banquet on Saturday evening will be held at the Vinton Legion Hall, featuring Dr. Walter Stromer as chief speaker. Banquet tickets will be \$1.50 per person.

* * * * *

The National Church Conference of the Blind will be held July 22-25 at the Kentucky Hotel in Louisville. Rates will be \$6.00 per day for single rooms, \$9.00 for double rooms and \$10.00 for twin beds. An inspirational program is reportedly being planned by Conference officials.

* * * * *

Jim Fall Publicized. James Fall, President of the Arizona Federation of the Blind, was the subject of a recent feature story in the Phoenix, Arizona, GAZETTE. In addition to his Federation

activity, Fall is also on the boards of the Phoenix Blind Center and the Maple Leaf Lions Club.

A high-school English and History teacher when his sight began to fail in the early 1930's, Jim subsequently went into dairy farming in Kansas and dirt farming in Missouri, the newspaper reported. Later he and his wife Maurine moved to Brownsville, Texas, where he operated a vending stand.

The Falls moved to Phoenix five years ago, where Jim became president of the local Zenith Club of the Blind and is today a Sunday school teacher and class president at the local Baptist Church. Now 60, Jim was said to be working on the government fallout shelter project provided for the blind of the state some months ago.

In his "spare" time, Fall reportedly does the housework in his home, as well as the cooking for his wife, who is almost bed-ridden with rheumatoid arthritis.

* * * * *

Nagle Named to D.C. Advisory Council. John F. Nagle, chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind, has been appointed to the District of Columbia's Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation. The action was taken in mid-March by the District Board of Commissioners, on the recommendation of Norman W. Pierson, director of the D.C. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

* * * * *

Israeli Training Experiment. A pioneer experiment in vocational training of blind persons for industrial employment is underway in Israel, according to an article in the April (1963) issue of THE NEW OUTLOOK. A textile institute of the national Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training has been putting into effect methods of rehabilitation introduced by agents of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) -- with such success that the 30 blind graduates of the program are now at work in the nation's textile industry as winding machine operators.

"There already is an indication that the productive output of the blind graduate equals that of the sighted worker in industry, both

in quality and quantity," writes Yehuda Schiff, deputy director of the Service for the Blind of Israel's Ministry of Social Welfare. Some twenty more blind students are currently undergoing training at the ORT institute.

The article points out that there are about 5,000 blind persons in Israel, 87 percent of whom are newcomers from over fifty countries in Asia and Africa. An unusual statistic is that 60 percent of the nation's blind population is of working age, as opposed to an estimated 15 or 20 percent in the countries of Europe and America.

* * * * *

"Fight for Mobility." The foregoing is the title of a 16mm. sound film produced as a public service by Philadelphia station WRCV-TV in cooperation with The Seeing Eye, Inc., of New Jersey. The film depicts the importance of mobility to blind persons. Three methods by which movement is commonly augmented are demonstrated in the moving picture -- those of the long cane, the dog guide, and the electronic device.

Dr. Richard Hoover, Baltimore ophthalmologist who devised the long cane method, is interviewed in the film; and Dr. Thomas Benham, physics professor at Haverford College, discusses and shows a current model of an electric device still in the experimental stage. The picture takes the audience on a tour of The Seeing Eye guide-dog training center, and focuses on methods used in training the animals and teaching blind persons to use them as guides.

Those interested in borrowing the film are requested to contact The Seeing Eye, Office of Public Information, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, New York.

* * * * *

AAWB Convention Set for Seattle. The 1963 convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind will be held July 21 through July 26 at Seattle's Olympic Hotel. Theme of the meeting will be "The Challenges of Change." Among affiliated groups planning to hold special sessions during the conclave are the Western Conference of Home Teachers and the States Council of Agencies for the Blind. Chairman of the program is Miss Marjorie Hooper, AAWB president-elect. Louis Rives, corporate secretary, is co-chairman for the affair; and Fuller Hale, executive director of the Seattle

Social Center for the Blind, has been designated chairman of the host committee.

* * * * *

Social Security Clients Mount. More than one and a half million persons -- men, women and children -- were added to the social security benefit rolls in fiscal 1962, and benefit payments rose 1.8 billion over the previous year, according to the latest annual report submitted to Congress by the Board of Trustees of the two social security trust funds.

Robert M. Ball, Commissioner of Social Security and secretary of the Board of Trustees, has announced that about half the increase of 1-1/2 million in the number of social security beneficiaries was attributable to 1960 and 1961 amendments to the law. About 723,000 persons were awarded benefits under the 1961 amendments making monthly benefits payable to men 62-64 and to their dependents, and an additional 169,000 were awarded payments as a result of provisions in the 1960 and 1961 amendments which reduced the amount of work needed to qualify for payments.

* * * * *

Peter Salmon Weds. Peter J. Salmon, veteran executive director of the Brooklyn Industrial Home for the Blind, was married last December to Lilyan Webel Banta, who is administrative secretary to the executive director, according to an item in THE NEW OUTLOOK. Salmon also recently celebrated his fortieth anniversary with the Brooklyn workshop.

* * * * *

Phoenix Blind Leader Hailed. Margaret Pekarek, newly chosen president of the Phoenix (Arizona) Zenith Club of the Blind, was the subject of a feature article published on April 5 in the Phoenix newspaper, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC.

After losing her sight a year and a half ago, Miss Pekarek "learned braille, learned how to type 55 words a minute, taught herself how to iron (something she had never done when she was sighted), and joined the Zenith Club for the Blind," the story pointed out.

"Then she set about helping other newly-blinded. She visits

the lonely at Little Sisters for the Poor, typing letters for them; worked with James Fall, president of the Arizona Federation of the Blind, on a brochure to be given new drivers to explain the White Cane law; and took on the chairmanship of a May 3 concert starring blind musicians . . . She learned to knit, do leather work, and even archery (she can hit the target 11 times in 12 tries)."

* * * * *

Ved Mehta Narrates Adventures. The well-known blind East Indian writer, Ved Mehta, is the author of a two-part essay humorously relating his educational and social experiences which appeared in THE NEW YORKER, December 8 and 15, 1962. Mehta, who was educated at the Arkansas School for the Blind and at the University of California, as well as in India, subsequently continued his "search for historical truth" for three years at Oxford University in England. The present articles tell of his encounters with famous historians and scholars, among them Arnold Toynbee, R. H. Tawney and Sir Lewis Namier.

* * * * *

Social Welfare Conference Meets. The National Conference on Social Welfare is scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio, the week beginning May 19, with business and social activities to be centered on the theme "We the People . . . promote the general welfare." Prominent among conference speakers will be Chester A. Bowles, presently a special assistant to President Kennedy; Walter Barlow, president of Public Opinion Research Center, Princeton, and Dr. Ellen Winston, newly appointed U. S. Commissioner of Welfare. Anthony Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, will climax the sessions with an address to the group on the final morning, May 24.

* * * * *

Asian Conference on Blind Work. Delegates from 19 Asian countries will assemble in Singapore on May 19 and then proceed to Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, for the Second Asian Conference on Work for the Blind, according to an announcement in THE NEW OUTLOOK. The above date represents a postponement of the original conference schedule, reportedly made necessary by the delayed opening of Malaya's parliament. The Conference is under the joint sponsorship of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, and the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, in cooperation with the Malayan government.

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THE BLIND AMERICAN

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READERS FOR BLIND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

By Dr. Melvin T. Johnson

(Editor's note: Dr. Johnson, Medical Director of the United States Civil Service Commission, has kindly submitted the following article in response to a request of THE BLIND AMERICAN for practical information on the workings of the significant new reader-assistant law.)

On August 29, 1962, the President signed Public Law 87-614, an Act "to authorize the employment without compensation from the Government of readers for blind Government employees." The purpose of this law is to improve employment opportunities in the Federal service for qualified blind persons by removing obstacles that heretofore have restricted their employment opportunities.

Public Law 87-614 authorizes heads of agencies to employ reading assistants for blind employees "without regard to the civil service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, as amended." The reading assistants will serve without compensation from the Government. They may serve on a volunteer basis, or they can be paid out of the personal funds of the blind employees, or by any nonprofit organization. For this purpose, the law specifically waives the restriction in section 1914 of Title 18, U. S. Code.

The Commission believes that Public Law 87-614 should increase employment opportunities for the blind. The law should, in turn, be of benefit to the Government by enabling it to use the services of personnel who could not otherwise be employed. The determination to use the authority in the law is, by terms of the law itself, within the discretion of department and agency heads.

Public Law 87-614 authorizes department heads to "employ, without regard to the civil service laws and the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, a reading assistant or assistants for any blind employee of such department, to serve without compensation from such department."

The Commission views this provision as a statutory exception to all the normal selection and appointment procedures that are based on the Civil Service Act and the Veterans' Preference Act, provided appointees are employed without compensation from the Government

to serve as reading assistants to blind employees of the agency. Under the law agencies could, if they chose, establish a staff of volunteer workers to provide reading assistance to blind employees on the rolls. Alternatively, agencies could permit the blind employee to engage the services of his own reader. Under either arrangement, an employer-employee relationship would be established between the agency and the reading assistant.

Reading assistants appointed under the provisions of Public Law 87-614 may be given excepted appointments of such duration and under such conditions as the agency may determine. Reading assistants to incumbents of sensitive positions are, themselves, subject to security clearance.

Since appointees serve without compensation, no retirement deductions are made. However, if the reading assistant serves on a full time or substantially full time basis, this service will become creditable for retirement purposes if he later becomes eligible for retirement coverage in a salaried position. Appointees are excluded from life insurance and health benefits coverage.

The procedures under which the blind candidate himself may apply for Federal employment will not be changed. Such an applicant must qualify as before under competitive standards and be certified to an agency for employment. Coordinators for employment of the physically handicapped will continue to make every effort to place blind candidates in positions for which they are qualified.

Once the blind candidate has been accepted for employment in a position which would require him to have a reader, the new law will become a factor. Selection of such a reader, to be paid by the blind employee or by a nonprofit organization, will be a matter to be decided between the blind employee and the employing agency.

Each Federal agency will establish its own procedures for selection of readers. We have every reason to assume that agency administrators will make every effort to approve the reader selected by the blind employee, subject to whatever security requirements must be met.

Use of readers who will be Federal employees but who will not be on the Federal payroll could conceivably cause some administrative problems. Should such problems arise, they will be solved in the

agency where the blind employee works, but the Civil Service Commission will be prepared to furnish guidance as needed. We feel that the spirit of the new law will prevail and that the incidence of administrative problems will be kept at a minimum. The potential good which will result from the act should far outweigh any problems which might arise.

CALIFORNIA SHELTERED SHOP OUSTS BLIND WORKERS

Forty blind employees of the Berkeley workshop of California Industries for the Blind were abruptly laid off during May as an apparent result of their organization into a union and subsequent agitation for a pay raise.

The sudden shutdown of the plant's broom-making division was alleged by plant officials to be unrelated to labor union activities and attributed solely to an "oversupply" of the brooms on the market.

But spokesmen for the AFL-CIO State Employees Union, representing 76 of the 85 sightless shop workers, have pointed out that the layoffs -- the first in the factory's history -- came immediately on the heels of union organization and of a recent work stoppage by employees which resulted in higher piece-rate wages.

Union efforts to negotiate the reinstatement of the ousted workers along with recovery of \$2,400 in lost earnings since the May 16 shutdown have been flatly rejected, these spokesmen said, thus raising the possibility of strike action to secure the rights of the 40 jobless blind persons. The union was said to have no alternative but to request authority for a strike from the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

"We don't advocate striking a state agency but the status of these people has to be clarified," union regional director Tom Hardwick stated. He added that the labor council would not be able to act on the strike request before June 3.

Officials of the sheltered workshop have maintained that the

layoffs were based on an overproduction of brooms and a poor market demand. In selling on the open market the plan competes with brooms manufactured in Mexico and Italy at prices equal or below those of the state workshops, according to Emmet Copeland, manager of the Berkeley factory.

But union spokesmen point to the fact that the objective of the sheltered workshop is not to make a profit but to rehabilitate and assist blind workers in becoming self-sufficient. Like the two other state-operated workshops in California, the Berkeley plant is officially established as a nonprofit agency.

The workshop trouble began early in May when the broom-makers, newly organized with other shop workers in the State Employees Union, stopped production in order to enforce their demand for a raise from 11 cents to 15 cents per broom. Although a wage boost was later granted by shop managers, its effect appears to have been defeated by the shutdown of broom production.

Some workers in the Bay Area shop are paid on an hourly basis rather than by piece rates, for turning out such products as pillow cases, ironing board covers, aprons and pot holders. But in all cases wages are tied directly to sales, with no minimum pay scale.

When sales go down, the blind employees cannot work, union spokesmen have observed. And when a machine breaks down, they have to stand around without pay. Average income to blind shopworkers was said to approximate \$1.19 an hour, with some individuals receiving much less.

Shop manager Stuart acknowledged that "the pay may be sub-standard" but added: "So are the workers." He maintained that the shop tries to keep up to the federal minimums (\$1.00 to \$1.25 an hour), "but some just can't earn it."

Although employees' earnings are tied to the sales of their products, factory administrators are paid directly from the \$170,000 state subsidy provided the factory annually and thus are independent of sales or production, according to union officials. These administrative costs were said to be continually rising, and although the plant showed a profit of \$2,000 last year it has generally lost money -- reportedly as much as \$40,000 in recent years.

SEVEN VITAL BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS

Seven bills embodying important legislative objectives of the organized blind have now been introduced into the present session of Congress and are awaiting action by the appropriate committees of the House and Senate, according to a bulletin issued by President Russell Kletzing of the National Federation of the Blind.

Heading the list of affirmative proposals to advance opportunities for the blind is a new "King bill," H.R. 6245 -- introduced by California Congressman Cecil R. King -- designed to amend titles X and XVI of the Social Security Act in order to "more effectively encourage and assist blind individuals to achieve rehabilitation and restoration to a normal, full, and fruitful life."

The King bill's specific improvements in blind aid are: it abolishes responsibility of relatives, liens, and residence requirements; requires states to fix a floor for aid and to meet individual needs above that floor; allows the states under title XVI to retain separate standards and separate administration, and to secure improved medical sharing; increases federal matching, and provides that new case services not be tied to the aid grant, be given only if requested, and be adapted to the problems of the blind.

Other bills before the House and Senate would: grant a tax exemption for individuals supporting a blind dependent (H.R. 1659); give tax exempt status to organizations engaged in work for the blind (H.R. 97); provide federal funds for special education of disabled children (H.R. 4640); assign vending-machine income to operators of vending stands, and provide machinery for appeals (S. 12 and S. 394); and allow disability benefits after only a year and a half of covered employment (S. 1268).

Details of NFB-Sponsored Bills

1. H.R. 6245, the new King bill, proposes to: remove the 12-month limitation on the exemption of additional income and resources of blind recipients having an approved rehabilitation plan for self-support;

-- abolishes the responsibility of relatives, and stipulates that only voluntary contributions actually made to blind recipients be treated as income;

-- frees blind recipients from subjecting their property to liens or transfers as a condition of eligibility;

-- provides that individual needs be presumed to be no less than a fixed amount, to be set by each state in accord with its own conditions; and provides that, if the actual needs of any eligible recipient are higher, he receive an amount sufficient to meet them;

-- insures that title XVI shall not be interpreted to prevent a state from having different assistance standards and eligibility requirements for any category included in the combined plan;

-- permits a state making use of title XVI to have a separate program for the blind and to receive federal matching money for its blind cases under that plan, along with the full federal financial benefits of averaging and medical-care participation;

-- permits the states to designate an agency other than the state welfare department to administer a separate plan of aid to the blind;

-- provides (as titles I and XVI now do) for federal financial participation up to one-half of a total of \$15 monthly medical-care expenditure for blind aid cases in states which retain their categorical program under title X;

-- makes it possible for a state which adopts title XVI, and subsequently becomes dissatisfied with it, to resume separate categorical aid programs under titles I (aged), X (blind) and XIV (disabled);

-- requires that new (1962) social services be given only to recipients who request them; that the amount of the aid grant not be made contingent upon acceptance of any such services, and that they be administered to recipients within their separate categories according to their distinctive needs;

-- provides for increased federal matching funds, to the extent of 6/7 of the first \$50 and from 50 to 75 percent (variable-grant formula) of the difference between \$50 and \$100;

-- requires that any increase in federal financial sharing in blind-aid payments be given only upon condition that the additional

money be passed on by states to recipients without lessening the states' share in aid payments;

-- prohibits the imposition of any residence requirement in aid to the blind.

2. H.R. 5706, introduced by Congressman Walter S. Baring (Nevada), prohibits state residence requirements as a condition of eligibility for aid to the blind.

3. H.R. 1659, introduced by Congressman King, amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow an additional exemption to a taxpayer supporting a blind dependent.

4. H.R. 97, introduced by Congressman Eugene J. Keogh (New York), exempts organizations for the blind from paying federal excise taxes -- as now permitted to educational institutions.

All the foregoing bills are under the jurisdiction of the House Ways and Means Committee, Honorable Wilbur D. Mills, Chairman, House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

5. H.R. 4640, introduced by Congressman John E. Fogarty (Rhode Island), provides federal funds to strengthen programs of special education of all categories of disabled children, including support for scholarships, college training programs, research and demonstration projects. The bill is under the House Committee on Education and Labor, Honorable Adam Clayton Powell, Chairman.

6. S. 12, introduced by Senator Jennings Randolph (West Virginia) and co-sponsored by Senators Robert Byrd (West Virginia) and Caleb Boggs (Delaware), provides for establishment of a presidentially-appointed appeals board under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, and for exclusive assignment of vending machine income to blind stand operators. (An identical bill, S. 394, was the subject of hearings last June by the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and may yet be favorably acted upon.) Communications should be addressed to the Honorable John McClellan, Chairman, Committee on Government Operations, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

7. S. 1268, introduced by Senator Hubert Humphrey

(Minnesota) and co-sponsored by Senators Jacob Javits (New York) and Jennings Randolph, liberalizes disability insurance cash benefits to the blind (under title II) by requiring only six quarters (a year and a half) in covered employment for eligibility -- as opposed to the present requirement of five years, plus proof of physical inability to work. The bill is under the Senate Finance Committee, the Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Chairman.

CONGRESSMAN KING URGES AID REFORMS

"This bill is a continuation of my efforts, since becoming a Member of the House of Representatives, to change blind-aid programs and to make of them, not programs offering mere marginal subsistence and static survival, but . . . directed toward encouraging blind-aid recipients to achieve rehabilitation and restoration to a normal, full and fruitful life."

With these words, Congressman Cecil R. King of California introduced on May 13 his comprehensive measure (H.R. 6245) designed to improve the social security programs of aid to the blind in the direction of removing present barriers and providing new incentives toward self-sufficiency and self-support. (For specific provisions of the new King bill, see the article immediately preceding.)

Recalling the rehabilitative goals set forth in President Kennedy's welfare proposals of 1962, Congressman King observed that his bill "would incorporate this high purpose into state programs of blind aid. It would help blind people who are in need to work toward rehabilitation, and ultimately to achieve for many complete liberation from any dependence at all upon public relief."

He noted that previous Congresses had adopted proposals of his to make blind aid a positive rehabilitative force. "Because of this, blind people in need have been given increased opportunities to live with decency and dignity, to attain rehabilitation and restoration to regular and contributing lives in the community. But much still

remains to be done . . . if these programs are to offer more than relief from want to these people."

Title XVI Opposed

Scoring the so-called optional category of Title XVI which would consolidate programs for the blind, the aged and the disabled, the California legislator asserted that the needs of these three recipient groups "are so different and distinctive that they must be satisfied by solutions based upon the separate categorical approach."

He expressed the belief "that many blind persons who are now aid recipients possess a potential for the attainment of full self-support, but few of these, I think, will realize this potential if they are to be lumped together, if their needs are to be considered and administratively treated as identical to those whose potential for achieving self-support is very slight in today's competitive world."

Congressman King emphasized that several provisions of his new bill are intended to "preserve, protect and reinforce" the categorical approach to public assistance for the nation's 400,000 sightless citizens. He called attention to his proposal removing the 12-month limitation on exempt income for blind recipients having a rehabilitation plan, and added:

"Whether a person is sighted or sightless, certainly it takes more than one year to get a firm foothold in a new economic venture. It takes longer than 12 months for a lawyer or an insurance agent, a salesman or newsstand operator to establish himself in a new business endeavor.

"I believe that, when a blind person enters into the practice of a profession or establishes a new business, all of the income from such activity should be available to strengthen the person's position in the new business -- to buy inventory and equipment, to purchase law books, to hire readers. I believe that none of the income should be used to reduce the blind person's aid grant until self-support has been achieved from the business activity."

Example of California

In support of his recommendations for liberalization of the blind aid program, Congressman King pointed to the experience of

his own state of California with its additional program of aid to the potentially self-supporting blind financed solely by state funds. Under that program more liberal exemptions of income, property and resources are allowed to recipients in order to encourage the goal of full self-sufficiency.

"Since this program was established in California [in 1941], a considerable number of blind participants in the program have attained full economic self-sufficiency," the legislator pointed out. "And in the overwhelming majority of these cases, many months in excess of a year were required to gain this most desirable end."

He noted that "if the federal requirement which limits the exemption of additional income and resources to 12 months had been applied to the 49 now self-supporting blind persons in California, 40 of them would still be on the welfare rolls, perhaps to remain there all of their lives."

In explaining another of his projected reforms -- the proposal for a minimum floor of aid for all applicants above which particular individual needs may be assessed -- Congressman King declared that "the basic needs for the very necessities of life of blind-aid recipients are not being fully met in most states, let alone any special needs incident to blindness.

"The unusually low amount of the average grant in the nation means that even a subsistence compatible with decency and health is not being provided under the state programs of blind aid," he said. "In order to further the purpose of self-support and self-care, aid to the blind should be granted on the basis of equal minimum payments to all blind recipients, to serve as a floor of protection against physical deprivation.

"Thus, the minimum amount of aid would be derived from the demonstrated needs of the group of recipients, rather than the demonstrated needs of the blind individuals. The special circumstances of the blind individual would be taken into consideration for aid grants above the minimum amount."

The California lawmaker expressed his belief that "through the device of the fixed minimum grant of aid, the dignity and integrity of the aid recipient, as well as his right to privacy, are safeguarded; he is no longer subjected to the individualized investigation and

discretionary judgment of the social worker, but is regarded as a member of a group, entitled to be treated in a manner prescribed by law."

HEW "Deception" Hit

In his House speech introducing H.R. 6245, Congressman King charged officials of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare with bad faith in their original presentation of the optional joint category under title XVI. He declared that Congress had been assured that the new title "would serve only as a bookkeeping arrangement, that it was intended to simplify the administration of public assistance by furnishing a convenient package plan for federal financial participation for all three adult categories.

"However, in an official bulletin purporting to interpret the 1962 public welfare amendments, the Department has made it abundantly clear that the new public assistance title was really not intended merely to make procedural changes in the administration of programs of aid to the blind, aged, and disabled, but it was the Department's intention to make substantive changes in existing programs -- changes so far-reaching that, I believe, they would have disastrous consequences for the nation's needy blind citizens.

"Despite its own earlier protestations to the contrary, and despite the absence of any wording in the law to support it, the Department has ruled that the combined state plan filed under title XVI must lay down a common standard for determining need and payments for all three adult categories of aid," he asserted.

Pointing to the exception to this ruling specifically granted by the Department for the five states which have existing separate agencies or commissions for the blind, Congressman King inquired: "If these five states can have different standards for the blind -- if the differing objectives and characteristics of the blind program are recognized as valid for these five states -- why is this principle not extended to the remaining 45 states as well? I believe that it should be. I believe that it must be."

Another federal ruling strongly criticized in Congressman King's speech was that a state's decision to combine its adult programs under title XVI is "irrevocable" and hence precludes any subsequent return to the separate categories of aid to the blind, aged and disabled respectively.

"The word 'irrevocable' is a very strong word," the Congressman declared. "It is a very final word. It means there can be no turning back once a choice has been made -- no matter how good the reasons might be for turning back.

"However dissatisfied the state welfare people might be with their consolidated category of aid under title XVI -- however much they might be convinced, after experience under title XVI, that they are unable to meet the needs of their needy citizens -- in spite of all this, they must continue to administer their aid program under it."

Pointing out that the new joint category has been described in all official explanatory material as an "optional" plan, Congressman King asserted: "I fail utterly to see anything 'optional' about a state plan which makes a choice to accept it an unchangeable, an irrevocable choice."

He maintained that "the present provision of irrevocability" with respect to title XVI is a "derogation" of the essential purposes of public assistance and therefore "should be struck from the law."

NFB CONVENTION: ADVANCE REPORT

(Editor's note: Following is the partial text of a bulletin released by the National Federation of the Blind.)

The 1963 convention at Philadelphia promises to be one of the best ever, with all of the old-time atmosphere of friendliness, harmony, and purpose. Members and friends of the N. F. B. who have not yet done so are urged to send in their reservations without delay.

The convention will begin on the morning of Wednesday, July 3, and will close at five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, July 6. Business sessions will be held on Wednesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon, Friday morning, Saturday

morning and Saturday afternoon. The banquet will be held Thursday evening, and Friday afternoon will be devoted to tours.

The convention will headquarter at one of Philadelphia's finest hotels -- the Sheraton, 1725 Pennsylvania Boulevard, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania, telephone LOcust 8-3300. Room rates are reasonable and the accommodations are truly luxurious. The hotel is a small city within itself, containing stores, shops, and a variety of other services. Five restaurants are located within the hotel: A truly excellent German restaurant featuring imported draft beers and German foods; a fine French restaurant with an impressive wine list; a delightfully quaint London chop house called the Cheshire Cheese; the Town Room; and the Minute Chef. The Minute Chef Snack Bar, located in the hotel, is open 24 hours a day.

Transportation

The Suburban Station Building is directly east of the Sheraton which is the main station of the Pennsylvania Railroad and has underground passage ways leading to the hotel. Airlines will make available free limousine service to the convention hotel. Bus terminals are to be found at 13th and Filbert Streets and 17th and Market Streets, the latter being directly in front of the Sheraton.

Restaurants

Horn & Hardart is located on 16th Street above Market Street, one block east of the hotel. This restaurant has reasonable rates and good food, specializing in twenty-nine cent breakfasts. Just a few steps north of Horn & Hardart's is Stouffer's Restaurant, which serves medium priced cuisine and cocktails. Within one and a half blocks south of the hotel is the Steak House, specializing in steak dinners for \$1.29. Going three blocks south of the hotel on 17th Street is the Pub Tiki, reknowned Polynesian restaurant. For additional hints on "What's Cooking" be sure to pick up your free copy of "We The Blind" at the lobby of Convention Hotel.

Tours

Number 1 - Independence National Historical Park

Historical Sites included in the Park are: Carpenter's Hall, Christ Church in Philadelphia, Congress Hall, Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House,

Franklin's Grave, Independence Hall (Birthplace of U. S. Declaration of Independence adopted and Constitution written here, and a chance to touch the Liberty Bell). Take time to visit some of the oldest churches in the country, for instance, Old Saint Mary's Church, Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Old St. George's Methodist Church, Old St. Joseph's R. C. Church.

Number 2 - Brandywine Park & John J. Tyler Arboretum Gardens

Enjoy the patriotic and unusual: Brandywine Park. Witness again one of our significant battles for independence, be among the soldiers and celebrities in their original homes and headquarters. Cross the creek with General Washington. Stand under one of the nation's oldest and most impressive trees. Then on to The John J. Tyler Arboretum Exotic Gardens, to stroll leisurely through fenced lined acres of floral and fragrant beauty. Read for yourselves the Braille identification of each exotic flower and plant.

Number 3 - The Overbrook School for the Blind

Welcome to the lengthy list of proud and inspired visitors to Overbrook School for the Blind, second oldest and first most beautiful residential school in America. Built according to Spanish Architecture, Overbrook contains numerous sights and sounds which have happily endowed the lives of thousands of sightless citizens of the world.

Number 4 - George Washington's Encampment at Valley Forge

At Valley Forge, stops will be made at Washington's Headquarters; Washington Memorial Chapel; and Mt. Joy Observatory Tower, tallest point of land at Valley Forge. You will see many statues, monuments and huts, replicas of those used by the Continental Army during the winter of 1777-78.

Extra Attractions

Betsy Ross' House: The home of Seamstress of our first American Flag. Fels Planetarium: Exciting shows explore stars daily. Franklin Institute: See the science museum and other interesting exhibits. Philadelphia Museum of Art: Admire the priceless paintings and statuary of the world. Rodin Museum: Observe the largest collection of Rodin sculpture outside of France. University Museum: Contains collections from prehistoric times to the fall of Rome. Lumadrama: Spectacular sound and light exhibition,

depicting the birth of the United States.

Summer in Chinatown: Enjoy a delightful evening of the crafts and customs of the Far East. (All those interested in this free tour, kindly contact the PFB office immediately as notice must be given to make the proper arrangements.) Zoological Gardens: See and scamper with the wildlife! Pet and play with the animal offspring in the Daniel W. Dietrich Memorial Children's Zoo; spend a wonderful day at America's foremost Zoological Gardens. Aquarama: Marvel at the swimmers and converse with the Porpoises at the new exciting Aquarama.

Art Within Touch: A rare opportunity for the blind to acquaint themselves with the master works of sculpture. Braille descriptions accompany each work of art; available free. Horse and Buggy: 45-minute tour of Colonial Philadelphia aboard new 15-passenger wagons, with guided lecture and driver leaving hourly from Independence Hall. Harbor Tours: Boat-bus combination tour of Port, including Navy Yard and Schuylkill River plus Center City; one and two-hour cruises daily. Robin Hood Dell: Enjoy free open air concerts nightly. John B. Kelly Playhouse in the Park: Outdoor dramatic presentations. Garden Court Swim Club: 46th and Pine Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will be available free of charge to all attending the convention on Wednesday evening July 3, 1963, from 7:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.

Specific details and arrangements for the above mentioned tours and attractions can be made upon arrival at convention headquarters (Sheraton Hotel).

For reservations: the address and telephone number of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind, Philadelphia Office, are: 4517 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 39, Pennsylvania; telephone EV 6-3634.

MEET THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND

(Editor's note: The following biographical sketches of seven national executive committee members are reprinted from the National

Federation of the Blind's official publication, "Who Are the Blind Who Lead the Blind?" released in January, 1963. For profiles of other prominent leaders, see THE BLIND AMERICAN, April 1963.)

PERRY SUNDQUIST

Member, Executive Committee

Past president of the National Federation, pioneer leader of the organized blind movement in California, veteran administrator of a model state welfare division -- Perry Sundquist has played a distinguished role in the social progress of the blind over the past generation.

Born in 1904 in the Minnesota town of Hibbing, Sundquist received his early education in the public schools and the school for the blind in Washington, and later moved to California to enroll at the famous school for the blind in Berkeley -- where he studied under the late Dr. Newel Perry and first developed his dedicated interest in the educational and organizational cause of the blind.

Sundquist's severe visual impairment did not keep him from going on to earn a B.A. degree in political science in 1928 from the University of California, and to pursue two more years of graduate study there and at the University of Southern California in the fields of education and social work. In 1931 he married a college classmate, Emily Wright, who is now a teacher in the Sacramento public schools.

From his initial election in 1930 as secretary of the Los Angeles County Club of Adult Blind, Sundquist has been continuously and actively involved in the movement of the organized blind. For five years following its formation in 1934, he was vice-president of the California Council of the Blind. From 1936 to 1941 he served as executive secretary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, and is presently one of its officers. In 1939 he was named president of the Los Angeles County Club.

His long years of association with the National Federation of the Blind were culminated with his election to the first vice-presidency in July, 1961, and his elevation to the presidency some months later, an office which he held until his resignation in July, 1962, and his immediate election to a two-year term on the NFB's Executive Committee.

Sundquist's career in public welfare work with the blind goes back to 1935, when he was appointed by the California Department of Education to conduct a state-wide study of the economic status of the blind. In 1941 he became Chief of the Division for the Blind, California Department of Social Welfare -- a post in which he is still serving with skill and distinction 22 years later. His contributions as an outstanding administrator of welfare programs were given recognition in 1959, when the National Federation of the Blind conferred upon him its Newel Perry Award.

Among the many important posts Sundquist has held are those of board member of the California Conference of Social Work; president of the Central District of the Coordinating Committee on State Services for the Blind; president of the Fort Sutter Chapter, California State Employees' Association, and head of the Division of Public Assistance in the State Department of Social Welfare.

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HAROLD REAGAN

Member, Executive Committee

A long-time leader of the blind in Kentucky, Harold Reagan was first elected to membership on the executive committee of the National Federation of the Blind in 1949 and was again elected in 1961. He was a prime mover in the establishment of the Kentucky Federation of the Blind in 1948 and served continuously as its president until his retirement in 1962. He has also been president of the Alumni Association of the Kentucky School for the Blind and president of the Kentucky Vending Stand Operators Association.

Blinded by a dynamite explosion at the age of eleven, which resulted in the additional loss of his right hand, Reagan attended the Kentucky School for the Blind and went on to the University of Louisville, from which he graduated with an A. B. degree in history. Since 1934, he has been the operator of a successful vending stand business in Louisville.

Reagan's active leadership in the uphill campaign of the Kentucky blind for constructive legislation and improved public

understanding of their capabilities was given symbolic recognition last year when the Kentucky Federation honored its outgoing president with the award of a braille watch for his "outstanding service to the blind" of the state.

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WILLIAM J. HOGAN

Member, Executive Committee

A veteran leader in the cause of the organized blind, William Hogan of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was the moving force in the organization of the Connecticut Federation of the Blind and has remained its president through three elections since the group was founded in 1957. He was also instrumental in originating the Bridgeport Association of the Blind, of which he is president and executive director.

It was largely through Hogan's efforts that the Connecticut Federation became affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind in 1951. Bill was first elected to the NFB's Executive Committee in 1959, and most recently re-elected in 1962.

Born in 1905, Hogan lost his sight 24 years later as the result of an automobile accident. Before that he had graduated from St. Augustine's School in Bridgeport and entered high school -- but was forced to leave school and go to work at a variety of trades. He was employed for seven years at the Singer Manufacturing Company, moving from the position of bench work inspector to that of office clerk and eventually to that of production expeditor. Since 1932, he has been employed as information clerk and vending stand operator at the Fairfield County Court House.

Long active in the politics of his state and community, Hogan is presently assistant chairman of the Republican Town Committee and has often played a key role in the nomination of candidates for local, state, and national offices. He also is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society of St. Augustine's Parish.

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FRANK LUGIANO

Member, Executive Committee

President of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind since 1956 and a member of the National Federation's Executive Committee since 1962, Frank Lugiano has been a vigorous campaigner for the blind ever since he lost his own sight while still in his teens. Indeed, his commitment to voluntary organization as a means of self-expression and advancement may be said to date back to his early childhood among the hard-coal fields of Pennsylvania -- heart of the rising union labor movement dominated for a generation by the figure of John L. Lewis.

Shortly after losing his sight in 1918, Lugiano entered the Overbrook School for the Blind in West Philadelphia. Before he graduated eight years later he had become secretary of his class, president of the school athletic association, president of the boy's glee club and captain of the track team as well as other athletic squads.

Not long after his graduation he was invited to become a trainee at the Wilkes-Barre workshop of the Pennsylvania agency for the blind, with the prospect of ultimately becoming executive director. That prospect, however, was quickly dashed when Lugiano courageously settled a shop labor dispute in favor of the blind workers rather than of the management. Although this episode did not endear him to the agency, its sightless employees promptly made him chairman of their grievance committee -- a post which he was to hold for the next 15 years.

During this period Lugiano successfully followed the trade of piano tuner, with an active sideline as pianist. In 1940 he was appointed as a home teacher of the blind under a WPA-sponsored project; and three years later purchased his first vending stand as an independent operator -- moving in 1947 to a new stand location in the courthouse of his own Luzerne County.

Meanwhile, Lugiano's career as an organizer and leader of the blind burgeoned from local participation to a state-wide and finally to a national office. As early as 1927 he inaugurated the Lackawanna (Luzerne County) Recreation Club for the blind, which immediately went to work for legislation to amend the state's constitution in order to create Pennsylvania's famous independent aid program for the blind. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Pennsylvania Educational-Benevolent Society of the Blind in 1929, which focused

its energies on the fight for the separate public-aid program -- later achieved through a constitutional amendment approved overwhelmingly by Pennsylvania voters in 1933. During the four-year campaign, Lugiano spoke before scores of civic groups and helped prepare hundreds of posters and circulars on behalf of the state blind program.

Among his many other activities Lugiano was chairman of the host Wilkes-Barre organization at the pioneer convention in 1940 which established the National Federation of the Blind. In 1943 he was elected president of the Pennsylvania Blind Merchants Guild, which he headed for six terms, followed by three more years as chairman of the board. Today the president of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind takes particular pride in his record of perfect attendance at all regular organizational and social meetings of the numerous associations in which he has participated over more than three and a half decades.

In recognition of his contributions to the cause of the Pennsylvania blind, Lugiano has received a number of awards and citations from community and state organizations, among them a gold watch from the Luzerne County Federation (1955) and a bronze plaque from the state Federation (1955) betokening 25 years of service; a scroll and transistor radio from the Pennsylvania Blind Merchants Guild (1959) in recognition of legislative achievements; a transistor radio from Luzerne County organization (1959) for 30 years of perfect attendance; a Silver Jubilee award from the Pennsylvania Federation (1961), and a legion of honor membership award from Philadelphia's Chapel of Four Chaplains in 1962.

In 1942, Lugiano met Miss Dorothy Robson, herself blind, and the two were married on Friday, the 13th of February. Today they own their own home (and fire their own furnace), and have successfully raised a family of seven children.

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AUDREY BASCOM

Member, Executive Committee

President of both the Nevada Federation of the Blind and the Southern Nevada Sightless, Inc., Audrey Bascom of Las Vegas has been an active participant in the organizational struggles of the blind

for more than a decade. She helped to form the effective state-wide association in 1952, and has been its elective head since 1957.

As the main instigator and subsequently director of the Orientation Center for the Blind in Las Vegas, Audrey has secured the warm cooperation of such civic organizations as the Lions Club and Service League in carrying through rapid expansion of the center and its facilities; having obtained a new building in the exclusive possession of the blind, she is presently completing final arrangements for an addition which will be twice the size of the existing structure.

Born and raised in the farming community of Healdton, Oklahoma, where she attended common school and high school, Audrey married Robert Dunham, a football star and noted all-around athlete from Kansas University. Their mutual interest in athletics encouraged her to become interested in active sports competition, and she was soon captain of a girls' softball team and a tournament golfer; but her greatest fame came in bowling, in which she won the Oklahoma doubles championship during the 1939-1940 season, and also served as secretary of the city association of the International Bowling League.

In 1941 Audrey was involved in an automobile accident which cost her the sight of one eye and, by the following year, of both eyes. After a two-year period of "vegetating," she was induced to make a comeback both to competitive life and to competitive sports (becoming once again captain of the Boykder Club bowling team). Today she is an active member of the advisory board of the state Bureau of Services for the Blind; the Vegas Valley Business and Professional Women's Club; the auxiliaries of the Eagles and of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and the Old-Timers Association of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Among the many productive ventures originated by Audrey, the one which gives her greatest satisfaction is her achievement in gaining admission of blind children to the public schools of southern Nevada -- and now obtaining tape recordings of textbooks for these blind students. Hardly less remarkable has been her accomplishment in bringing about close and friendly cooperation among the organized blind of Nevada, the state's welfare department and its Bureau of Services for the Blind -- and not least of all the Lions Clubs of southern Nevada, which have furnished consistent encouragement and support in her organizational and educational campaigns to improve the self-confidence and self-sufficiency of the blind people of the state.

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ANITA O'SHEA

Member, Executive Committee

Miss O'Shea, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts, was elected to the NFB's board of directors in 1961 as the climax of a decade's active participation and leadership in the organized movement of the blind in her state. A member of the executive board of the Greater Springfield Association of the Blind since 1952, she was named five years later to the board of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts. Shortly thereafter, she became the ABM's second vice-president, attained the presidency a year later (1958), and in 1959 was elected to a full two-year term as president. She was chosen by the NFB in 1960 for a one-year term on the executive committee, and was elected to a two-year term the following year.

Educated at Perkins School for the Blind, of Watertown, Massachusetts -- where she was equally active in dramatic presentations and athletic activities -- Miss O'Shea went on to intensive preparation for a career as medical secretary, first through attendance at secretarial school and later through private instruction and self-instruction. As a result of this concentration she has been employed since 1959 as a medical secretary with the Wesson Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

During her tenure as president of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, Miss O'Shea was instrumental in the launching of several new programs for the blind, notably the establishment of an advisory committee which meets regularly with the director of the state's Division for the Blind. She also inaugurated a Job Opportunities Committee which has had substantial success in informing potential employers of the vocational and professional capacities of blind persons.

In the fall of 1958, Miss O'Shea initiated a highly effective braille class for Springfield's Jewish Community Center, which has since produced an ever-expanding pool of volunteer transcribers to meet the needs of blind college students and pupils in the public schools. A number of her trainees have themselves become braille instructors, training more volunteer transcribers and recruiting readers for tape-recorded programs. In 1960 she was appointed by the Mayor of Springfield as general chairman for the 80th birthday celebration of Helen Keller.

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THOMAS F. MOODY

Member, Executive Committee

T. F. Moody, a luminary from the Lone Star State, was elected to the NFB's Executive Committee at its 1961 convention, as the climax to a rising career of leadership in organizations of the blind in his home state.

A resident of Houston, Texas, Moody served for many years on the board of directors of the Houston Council of the Blind, then a chapter of the Lone Star State Federation of the Blind. From 1959 to 1962 he was a member of the state federation's board of directors; and today he is president of its Houston chapter, the Associated Blind of Greater Houston, which he organized himself.

Before losing his sight at the age of 13, Moody received his first six years of education in the public schools of Waco and Houston, where he was consistently at the head of his class. While in the seventh grade he was totally blinded as the result of an injury, which put a temporary end to his schooling. But in 1934 he resumed his education at the Texas State School for the Blind in Austin, graduating five years later with highest honors.

Although awarded a university scholarship, young Moody chose to return to the school for the blind following graduation for a summer course in vending-stand operation and management. Eventually he was able to secure a vending stand, under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, and has since followed that occupation almost without interruption for 20 years. He did, however, serve a wartime stint as a bench inspector of machine-gun tripods at the McEvoy manufacturing plant in Houston. Today he operates a vending and newsstand in the lobby of Houston's Main Post Office.

Two of his accomplishments with the Lone Star State Federation in which Moody takes justifiable pride are his efforts to build the organization's credit union into a going financial concern, and his brilliant editorship from 1959 to 1962 of the state federation's quarterly journal, THE LONE STAR LEADER.

PROFILE OF A BLIND OSTEOPATH

A blind Doctor of Osteopathy, William Brannon of Evanston, Illinois, is the subject of a biographical article published in the April (1963) issue of PAGEANT Magazine. The five-page profile, written by Theodore Berland, relates the unusual life and career of the 45-year-old D. O. who lost his sight in infancy as the aftermath of an influenza attack.

Before he entered grade school, young Brannon had been taught braille by his mother, who learned the punctiform method in order to transcribe his class books as well as to assist the boy's general reading, according to the article. Later his parents created a braille arithmetic slate which has since gained wide acceptance.

In high school the youngster became a boy scout, a sports reporter for the student paper, president of the radio club and a member of the honor society. He also swam, rode horseback, wrote poetry, and won a prize for raising flowers.

As an engineering student at Wisconsin's Beloit College, Bill Brannon barely missed Phi Beta Kappa, was co-founder and captain of the wrestling team and won a letter in competitive swimming. After graduation he tried his hand at selling insurance, with such success that he became the youngest man to be included in the 1940 book Today's Young Men (side by side with such notables as Thomas E. Dewey and Edward R. Stettinius).

Despite his success young Brannon soon went on to the Kirksville (Missouri) School of Osteopathy, graduating second from the top in his class. After 19 years of practice in Evanston, the PAGEANT story points out, "he has filled his file cabinets with the Braille records of more than 25,000 patients." Last May he was invited to act as honorary chairman of the state osteopathic convention.

In 1962, Dr. Brannon passed rigorous state medical examinations in order to receive an unrestricted license to practice which includes the prescription of drugs. The opportunity had been newly opened to Illinois osteopaths in 1959 on condition that they pass the gruelling tests for all medical-school graduates -- involving over 200 questions to be answered in three hours. Dr. Brannon, out of school for nearly two decades, barely failed to make the grade his

first time around, but spent much of the following year cramming for a second try. The article reports that he scored near the top, 88 percent, on the state examinations -- thereby earning the unlimited osteopathic license.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Newton Ottone Honored. Newton Ottone, head of the Springfield Association for the Blind and longtime leader of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, was honored recently by American Bosch Division of American Bosch Arma Corporation on the 35th anniversary of his employment with the firm.

Presented with a gold watch specially equipped with a braille face, Ottone was cited both for his record with the company and for his contributions to the organized blind of Massachusetts. He is presently employed in the service packaging section of the plant and is reportedly an expert at packaging small parts.

Ottone, whose accomplishments include having been a Scout Master, has been blind for 25 years. He lives with his wife in Springfield, where he was instrumental in securing a Chapter House for the Springfield Association.

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Part-Time Employment Offered. An unusual opportunity for part-time employment of blind persons as "field monitoring personnel" -- to tape-record radio and television programs and commercials for advertising checking purposes -- has been made available by a Chicago corporation. In response to our request, the company has provided the following details of the offer:

"Persons, from ANY area, with a tape recorder capable of using up to and including 7-inch diameter tape reels, and with speeds of at least 3.75 ips (1/4 or 1/2 track), and with a 'direct wired' connection from their recorder to their AM, FM or TV set, can apply

for positions as 'field monitoring personnel,' by sending their name and address, etc., to AIR CHECK SERVICES CORPORATION OF AMERICA, Mr. Richard Drost, 1743 West Nelson Street, Chicago 13, Illinois. They will then receive a letter detailing operations, as well as a card which must be filled out in its entirety and sent back to be placed on file."

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New Mexico Orientation Center. "The voice of the blind themselves has been heard for the first time in the state of New Mexico," writes New Mexico Federation President Pauline Gomez in the March N.M.F.B. NEWSLETTER. Her reference is to recent passage by the state Legislature of a Senate bill establishing an interim joint committee of the Legislature to study the possibility of a state Orientation Center for the Blind.

The bill, which was passed unanimously in the House with only a single Senate vote against it, was the result of intensive and persistent work by Miss Gomez and other Federation leaders in conjunction with the District 40 Lions Club. Among New Mexico Federationists who were instrumental in seeing the measure through the legislative mill are Albert Gonzales, Tony Moya, Sam Chavez, Fred Humphreys and Joseph Bursey.

That the cooperation of State agency officials was less than perfect in the stormy course of legislative hearings and debate on the proposals is indicated by President Gomez' comment: "Much to my dismay, throughout the promoting of this bill, a rumbling of discord was heard from staff of the Division of Services for the Blind and from some of the staff of the state workshops."

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Talking Machines Planned. Talking machines which would be able, among other things, to "read" books to the blind are in the planning stage at Bell Telephone Laboratories, according to a company release.

The way it works is that speech sounds indicated on punched cards are fed in sequence into a computer, which has been "programmed" to respond with simulated vocal effects. Each card can also carry pitch and timing data for natural phrasing, intonation or even singing.

The talking-machine project is an outgrowth of Bell Labs'

continuing research to better understand the phenomenon of speech, then use this knowledge for new ways to carry speech efficiently over communications systems, according to the company.

"Two good uses of a talking machine are readily apparent: voiceless persons could have the machine talk for them; and books could be made into punched cards so they could be 'read' to the blind."

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Blind Rehab in Uganda. More than 175 blind Africans have been trained in agricultural and rural crafts over the past six years at the Salama Rural Training Center in Uganda, according to an article in the May (1963) issue of THE NEW OUTLOOK. The author, W. Jackson, is a member of the overseas staff of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind who has spent nearly five years working with the Uganda Foundation for the Blind.

Faced with an estimated blind population of between 37,000 and 50,000, British and Uganda officials began a decade ago to plan for rehabilitation services centering on the needs of an essentially agricultural economy, Jackson wrote. "In this system there is a place for the blind farmer; indeed, there is not only a place -- there is a need."

Although most blind Ugandans were productively engaged when services were begun, "a few were more enterprising and were unprepared to let blindness defeat them; they were keeping shops, making mats, and playing music," Jackson said. "The blind women were more active and were marrying and making good wives. I am told that there is little difference between the price of a blind bride and a sighted bride; the custom being that the male pays the bride price in cattle."

Training at the Salama Center is mainly agricultural but includes classes in braille, English and arithmetic, handicrafts and music. After a year of training and instruction, the graduate receives a certificate and is assisted in resettlement on farming land in his home area. The article concludes that "the rehabilitated blind person, armed with the knowledge of agriculture and the will to succeed, can not only make a contribution to his family and country but can make himself a worthy and respected member of his community."

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Library Notes. An annotated list of selected press braille books, talking books and books on magnetic tape -- entitled Reading for Profit -- is now available in a revised, large-print edition, according to the NEWSLETTER of the Library of Congress's Division for the Blind. A braille edition as well is being ordered. . . . The World Book Encyclopedia also is planning a large-type edition, to be released early in 1964. . . . The Division for the Blind is now working on a plan to duplicate by the Thermoform process at least some of the hand-copied braille books transcribed for the collection at the Library of Congress. This move is expected to provide copies for some of the Regional Libraries for the Blind, so that maximum use can be made of these hand-transcribed books. . . . The second Conference of Regional Librarians for the Blind was held in Washington May 8-10, under sponsorship of the Division for the Blind. Emphasis of the meeting was on the resolution of problems of growth and expansion of services, as well as on developing routines for the more efficient use of library staff and book resources.

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New Switchboard Device. A new device that enables a blind person to operate a telephone switchboard efficiently has been developed by the Bell Telephone System to increase employment opportunities for the handicapped. According to the Bell System, this device makes it easier for businesses to hire blind people as switchboard attendants. The new attachment is simple to use and requires little training.

The device utilizes a special probe equipped with a tiny photo transistor. The probe "sees" the face of the switchboard by converting light signals to audible sounds which are heard in the blind attendant's phone headset.

The retractable cord probe connects to a small box which houses the operating mechanism. In addition, there is a narrow panel of special pilot lamps mounted on the face of the switchboard. These attachments are now available for several standard Bell System switchboards and will soon be adaptable to most other models.

Major advantage of this new device is its ease of use. Basically, it guides a blind person's hand by sound signals to the correct location, or "jack," on a switchboard. Calls are then connected or disconnected in a normal way.

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"TV Sight" for the Blind. A pioneer of American television has predicted that a system of "electronic vision" for the blind will be perfected within the next quarter-century, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Montreux, Switzerland. Dr. Allen B. DuMont, founder of DuMont Laboratories of New Jersey, related his belief to scientists attending an international television conference in the Swiss city.

"There are outstanding scientists who are firmly convinced that we will be able eventually to feed electrical waves directly to the human brain," DuMont said. He claimed that this could eventually be done with such precision, in combination with the human nervous system, that "a blind person will actually enjoy television pictures."

The American TV expert predicted that miniature TV cameras soon will be developed weighing less than a pound, making them easily transportable by a blind person receiving electronic signals directly to his brain.

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BLIND SHOP-WORKERS - WHAT ARE THEY?

By Dr. Jacobus tenBroek

(Editor's note: The following report on the status of sheltered shop workers was prepared for presentation at the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Philadelphia, July 4, 1963. Dr. tenBroek, president of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, is also the founder and past president of the National Federation.)

What is the status of handicapped workers in sheltered workshops? Are they employees -- and if so do they have the normal rights of organization and bargaining on the job, and of compensation off the job? Are they trainees, undergoing vocational and personal rehabilitation to fit them for placement in outside occupations -- and if so, do they have any of the rights of employees? Are they wards, or inmates, in the custody of a charitable agency, capable only of moral uplift but not of economic or social elevation? These are questions that go back to the historic origins of the workshop as we know it: the separate but related institutions of the asylum, the medieval hospital, and the poor-law workhouse.

The past few years have witnessed a succession of developments which give new weight and importance to these questions -- among them strikes, walkouts and layoffs; legislation, lawsuits and legal decisions. During the past year, in particular, several events of great significance have occurred which make it especially timely now to summarize the major happenings for their bearing on a new appraisal of the sheltered workshop and the workers it shelters.

The question of the status of shop workers has been raised in connection with their eligibility for unemployment and other social insurance benefits; and the answer has been mixed. In 1959, the California legislature reached the point of declaring that the workers in its sheltered shops were not "inmates of a state institution . . . but are employees of the state" -- and extended to them the rights of state unemployment compensation insurance and of unemployment compensation disability insurance. In the following year Oregon's Attorney General issued a similar ruling, thereby joining such states as Washington and Wisconsin, which for years had held their shop workers to be eligible for unemployment compensation.

An opposite view of the character of sheltered shop employment has resulted from a recent federal district court decision and a

congressional committee report both of which deal with federal disability insurance. On their face these opinions give an impression of liberality, since they make disability insurance payments available to sheltered shop workers. In fact, however, they are based upon the proposition that workshops cannot be treated as places of normal or regular employment. "It should be a rare case," according to the congressional committee, "in which a severely impaired individual who can market his skills only in a sheltered workshop and is capable of productivity resulting in very low earnings would be found able to engage in 'substantial gainful activity.'" And in the opinion of the district court, the earnings of a sheltered shop worker are properly to be regarded "not as wages for work performed, but [as income] derived from purely philanthropic sources." While this theory may help to secure disability insurance benefits for shop workers, it can hardly be said to move in the direction of improving wages and working conditions for those who labor in the shops.

The most important source of definition of the status of the shop workers has been the newly independent and often militant activities of the workers themselves -- centering in union organization, collective bargaining efforts and strike action. These are the acts of free citizens and workers, not the behavior of suppliant wards. Significant episodes in this struggle have occurred in Dallas, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri, and in the California cities of San Diego and Berkeley.

The first of these events was the least successful and the least clearcut. In the summer of 1958 seven blind salesmen of the Dallas, Texas, lighthouse began a strike which lasted two months before it was broken by total rejection of the strikers' demands. Unfortunately there was a lack of solidarity between the salesmen and the nonstriking workers inside the sheltered shop. The confused issue which resulted proved too great a handicap for the seven blind salesmen, despite the support of the organized blind of Texas and the NFB, along with some help from local organized labor.

The 1960 strike of Cleveland shop workers was both clearer in the issues presented and more successful in its outcome. After a ten-day strike for higher wages, eight blind broom-makers of the Society for the Blind workshop returned to their jobs on the basis of an agreement which promised higher income under their piece-work system -- an agreement worked out with the aid of a friendly union official.

During the same year, 1960, the employees of San Diego's sheltered workshop defied the agency management by forming their

own association and moving to improve their conditions of work through bargaining. In some ways this episode also presented a mixed picture; the handicapped workers were predominantly not blind, and their hastily formed association failed to hold together for long. The chief significance of the San Diego case lay in the decision handed down by the National Labor Relations Board following a petition by the shop workers. By a majority ruling of three to two, the Board held that the sheltered shop was a rehabilitation center rather than an employment establishment and thus declined to assert its jurisdiction with respect to collective bargaining and other conditions of normal labor-management relations.

The strike of the St. Louis shop workers against the Lighthouse for the Blind began in November, 1961, and ended in January, 1962, with the appointment of an arbitration board to review the workers' grievances. The blind employees had sought to gain recognition of the AFL-CIO Leathergoods, Plastics and Novelty Workers Union as their bargaining agent. Their eight-week strike started, according to local newspaper accounts, when half of the Lighthouse's workers stopped work and established a picket line to enforce their demands. The essentials of their case, as reported in the press, were the familiar ones of sheltered shop history: lack of a set wage scale, no provisions for seniority or orderly layoff, no hearing of grievances or indeed any form of labor-management communication other than dictation from above. Dissatisfied with the award which was made by the arbitration board, the shop workers carried their case to the NLRB.

The Board's decision, handed down in October, is significant in five respects. First, it concerned a workshop for the blind, as opposed to general shops employing persons of various handicaps. Second, it referred to a sheltered workshop the nature of which ruled out a decision based on grounds of its rehabilitative function; while such training was found to be among its services, only four or five individuals in the preceding year had been trained in collaboration with the state Bureau of the Blind (as against 105 persons employed in the workshop). Third, the Board throughout its opinion referred to the personnel inside the shop as workers, in the status of employees. Fourth, the workshop was seen by the Board to be in substantial measure a self-supporting commercial enterprise. Total sales for 1961 amounted to \$469,000. The Lighthouse was able to pay 90 percent of its expenses with proceeds from sales. Only 10 percent of its income was derived from voluntary contributions -- a sum not markedly out of line with the public subsidies received by many regular business establishments.

Fifth, the underlying assumption of the Board that the St. Louis workshop is essentially a custodial agency, whose workers are to be

regarded as wards, takes this case far beyond the significance of the earlier San Diego decision. The basis of the ruling is revealed in this sentence: "The need of the workers is a consideration in their hiring, laying-off and recall by the employer." The Board's decision thus accepts the definition of the workshop's function and character advanced by its managers in their brief. That definition was set forth in these stark terms: "Disputes between the Lighthouse and its blind people [are not] in the category of disputes between employer and employees in private industry. Emotional and social problems are involved in dealing with the blind. In many instances the blind are also handicapped emotionally. The Lighthouse exists only 'because members of the community are willing to donate their time, services and money so that a helping hand may be extended to those in need. . . . The end results sought by it are philanthropic in nature and the social need for its existence must not be jeopardized by subjecting it to the full scope of the Labor-Management rules applicable to private industry."

The employers' brief was replete with such suggestive phrases as these: The Lighthouse "a therapeutic program to help and assist blind people to become useful members of the Community. . . . [Its] problems are more properly those of programs sponsored by non-profit welfare institutions for treatment of individuals with special needs."

On this view -- the essentials of which have been taken over by the NLRB in its decision -- the blind persons in the workshop are indeed employees of a kind: a kind without rights. They are there not so much to work, in the conventional sense, as to learn "proper work habits" such as "how to get along with people." Still more fundamentally, they are there neither for work nor for vocational training but for "treatment" of the special needs that are assumed to be an inevitable accompaniment of blindness -- namely, emotional and social abnormality. The case for the sheltered workshop, as here presented, is scarcely to be distinguished from the case once made for that notorious institution of the middle ages: the combination workhouse-hospital-and-asylum.

The decision of the NLRB in St. Louis is therefore more retrograde by far than that which it handed down in San Diego. But both decisions are alike in the consequences of their refusal to grant the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act. By so doing they sanctify the exemption of the workshops from the minimum-wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and discourage self-organization or expression on the part of the workers, with the effect of throwing them upon the mercies of workshop managers and controlling agencies.

In short, the two decisions together not only perpetuate but intensify the economic dependency and helplessness of workshop employees.

The most recent event in this succession of actions by sheltered shop workers -- and very possibly the most significant of all -- occurred just last month in Berkeley, where 40 employees of the California Industries for the Blind workshop succeeded in their strike for increased wages and security of employment. The struggle went through several stages. The first was the successful organization of all but a few of the plant's 80 workers by the AFL-CIO State Employees Union. That was followed by a walkout of the 40 broom-makers early in May to enforce their demands. Workshop officials momentarily acceded to their wage requests, then retaliated by laying off all 40 of the strikers. The grounds given were a surplus of brooms, which was belied by the reported fact that the state had just ordered 800 dozen brooms from outside sources. The blind workers and their union then sought and received strike authority from the Central Labor Council of the county, and promptly put the strike into effect. The strikers had the support of almost the entire working force of the shop (only four braved the picket line), and also of other unions in the area. The picket line did not stop at the Berkeley workshop; a busload of blind strikers, complete with guide dogs, traveled to the state Capitol and flung a picket line around the controlling department of education and even around the Capitol building, wherein sat Governor Pat Brown and an observant session of the Legislature. Their protest was prominently reported on TV and in the press. The response was quick in coming. After only two days the strikers were back at work, assured of no reprisals or loss of pay, with their principal demands met and others promised a reasonable hearing through collective bargaining.

The legal situation of the Berkeley shop workers, to be sure, is somewhat different from that of the employees in the San Diego and St. Louis shops, neither of which is a state-operated facility. The National Labor-Management Act excludes all state employees, including employees of state workshops, from its jurisdiction. On the other hand, there are two laws on the books in California which serve in lieu of coverage by national legislation. One is the "little Kennedy bill," the right-to-organize measure for the blind steered through the Legislature in 1961 by the California Council of the Blind, which grants to blind persons the right to organize without interference by any state agency. The other statute, enacted in the same year, extends to all public employees the right to join whatever organization they choose in order to express their interests and viewpoint to the agency which employs them.

These events of the recent past do not solve the riddle of the status of blind workers in sheltered workshops. If anything, they serve to compound the confusion. If we are to believe the NLRB, in its San Diego incarnation, the people in the shops are trainees. If we are to believe the NLRB, in its St. Louis incarnation, they are wards -- although they are also workers of a kind. If we follow the reasoning of the federal district court, they are not wage earners at all but the recipients of philanthropic handouts. If we are to take seriously the victory of the Berkeley broom-makers, then they are not only employees -- but employees with many of the rights and responsibilities that accrue to organized labor.

To secure the benefits of the National Labor Relations Act, individuals have to be employees or at least workers. This is provided in the law itself. So, too, under the California legislation just mentioned, the workers in order to receive unemployment compensation have been declared to be in the status of employees. The history of the right to organize in this country has mainly been the history of the right of labor to organize. The right of people to organize, however -- to join voluntary associations for self-improvement, political activity, social gains, religious worship, or mutual protection -- is not necessarily linked to their status in the labor market. It is inseparably connected with their rights as men and as citizens in a free society. Unless we are prepared to deny that workers in sheltered shops are men and that they are citizens, they are entitled to the full benefits of these rights as are all others. And this is true whichever of the conflicting theories about them we choose to adopt -- whether we regard them as employees, as trainees, or even as recipients of charity. I am not prepared to deny that they are men and citizens -- are you?

NINTH WORLD CONGRESS ON DISABLED

In June all roads led to Copenhagen, Denmark, for the Ninth World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled. At this important gathering, which occurs every 3 years, international spokesmen for business and industry, government, organized labor and the handicapped focus their attention on employment of the rehabilitated worker. The meeting serves as a stimulus

to the employment of the handicapped throughout the world and in turn to speed the economic and social progress of all nations.

"Disability -- Prevention and Rehabilitation" was the theme of the Congress. The discussions explored this central theme and the ways of solving the worldwide medical and social problems brought about by the increasing number of accidents causing disability.

Sectional meetings following the daily general sessions were to evaluate the physical, psychological, and sociological problems of the disabled and their rehabilitation; the influence of social insurance systems; the changing labor market; vocational aspects of rehabilitation; problems of transportation; and work and traffic injuries.

President of the International Society is Mr. Hall Popham of Canada. Mr. Donald Wilson is Secretary General of the Society. Ian Campbell of Canada is Chairman of the World Commission which is sponsoring the Seminar following the Congress.

An estimated 200 to 300 persons from the United States were expected to attend the Congress and participate in pre-Congress or post-Congress tours of rehabilitation facilities on the Continent, coupled with sightseeing.

Disabled persons all over the world are the ultimate beneficiaries of these congresses. New ideas for rehabilitation programs are freely exchanged and subsequently adapted from country to country. New concepts in rehabilitation methods are developed at these international meetings and molded to fit the particular needs and resources of any given region, or community, whether in a small local rehabilitation center or in a large government program.

LIFE IN A SHELTERED WORKSHOP

(Editor's note: The letter and note which follow are reprinted from the June, 1963, issue of the California COUNCIL BULLETIN.)

The following article, which appeared in the March, 1963, issue of THE SPOKESMAN, published by the Bay Counties Post-Polio

Association, is reproduced in this Bulletin with the kind permission of Mrs. Evelyn Martinson, author of the article, and Robert Penn, President of the Association. It answers the question: Should sheltered workshops have a role in the vocational training and rehabilitation of the disabled? Bear in mind that since her workshop stint, Mrs. Martinson, the writer of the article, has been successfully employed as a legal secretary and as a deputy city clerk in Southern California.

"Dear Editor:

"The article 'On Record' interested me considerably, as some years ago I had some experience in working in a sheltered workshop. Due to this experience, I very strongly feel that any State support of these workshops would be a gross misappropriation of public funds. Let me tell you about it.

"In September, 1952, I contacted polio, and, after the usual hospitalization and treatment with which we are all familiar, I returned home, legs almost completely paralyzed, but quite able to care for myself and my home without assistance. In other words, nothing had changed for me with the exception that I had to get around in a wheelchair.

"In 1955, I found that it would be necessary for me to go to work in order to support myself, and having had previous accounting and secretarial experience, I went job hunting. Almost every place that I applied informed me that they could not hire me without proof that I would be able to work a full 8-hour day.

"After about 3 months of looking and being turned down, I decided that the only thing to do was to find some way to prove to these prospective employers that I was capable of working. So I went to a sheltered workshop where I spent another three months gaining my 'proof'.

"We began our day of work with church services. I have nothing against religious services, but we were all preached at as though we had something to be ashamed of because of our handicaps -- that because of our afflictions we were sinners. I might add that, unless we attended these services, we were docked one-half hour on the pay check.

"The pay check was a thing of beauty! For some reason, which I will never understand, this workshop was

not governed by the minimum wage laws. I made the fabulous sum of \$.45 per hour. Hardly a living wage. Every handicapped person there received the same hourly rate of pay. However, there were a number of people employed there who were not handicapped, and these people were paid substantially more -- in some cases, three and four times more than the handicapped.

"We were also constantly reminded that if we couldn't 'cut the mustard,' there were plenty of others just waiting for our jobs and that we should be grateful that we were allowed to work there. The work load and the pressure were extreme.

"Now, all of this may sound pretty terrible, but everyone of the handicapped workers there at that time felt the same way about it as I did. Eventually, I was able to gain employment in private industry and finally worked my way to being a legal secretary. The final blow to come from the workshop, however, was a call from them to my first outside employer informing him what a good job they had done in training me for outside employment. The skills that I had acquired during my high school and early employment years, they were taking credit for!

"If, as suggested in your article, grants were to be made to private industry for on-the-job training and employment of the handicapped, degrading and humiliating experiences like this could be eliminated. A sheltered workshop was of no real benefit to me. I would have had a much better attitude had I never seen the inside of one. I spent months fighting down the bitterness I acquired there.

"I realized there are many people who are so severely disabled that it would be unrealistic for them to be employed in other than a workshop, but certainly such a workshop must be beneficial and pleasant to them, or the will to work could vanish completely.

"I also want to say that, unless a handicapped person is given the opportunity to work to the best of his ability, as every other person is given the opportunity, our sense of self-respect and our rights as citizens are seriously jeopardized."

A NEW JOB FIELD FOR THE HANDICAPPED

By Milton Cohen

(Editor's note: Mr. Cohen is Executive Director of the Federation of the Handicapped. His article first appeared in PERFORMANCE, official journal of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.)

Pioneering in finding new placement opportunities for the disabled has been one of the principal objectives of the Federation of the Handicapped since three amputees banded together in 1935 to make themselves and their fellows self-supporting.

The latest effort in opening up new job opportunities occurred when the first disabled person ever employed in the Personal Service Center at the Brooklyn Naval Base took over the job of engraving, embossing, key-making and similar jobs which add to the comfort of Navy personnel and their families.

The story of how Leonard Karafial, polio victim, was given the opportunity to blaze a trail which not only may extend through the 6 Personal Service Centers the Navy now operates, but the 22 planned to open during 1963, is the tale of a chain reaction which resulted from good work done by the handicapped for a private employer.

For some time our Industrial Homework Division has contracted for a variety of sorting and clerical jobs with the New Hermes Engraving Machine Co., New York City. This is the company which furnishes the machines which make it possible for naval facilities to offer the personal services, such as embossing and name-engraving, which could not easily be purchased locally. When it became difficult to find personnel with the qualities and training needed, the company staff proposed that the Federation's services be put at the disposal of the Navy Ship Stores Office in Brooklyn. The position requirements had already been established. The NSSO Services specialists pinpointed two essentials that must be characteristic of personnel hired to operate the Centers: (1) adequate training in the operation of the key-making, engraving, embossing, and other machines used to bring small comforts to NEX patrons, and (2) the temperament and personality needed for what is essentially a one-man operation.

A report, printed in the Navy Exchange Review, attests to the firmness with which Navy officials became convinced that handicapped workers could fill the bill:

"Consideration of the personnel problem ultimately led to the realization that the sort of patience, sensitivity, and ability to give concentrated application to tedious detail were qualities which handicapped persons usually have developed, of necessity, to a greater degree than is found in people who are not physically handicapped."

Pilot Test Program

The immediate result of preliminary exploration of these new work opportunities was the setting up of a pilot test program with a handicapped operator working a full 8-hour day in the Personal Services Center at the Naval Receiving Station in Brooklyn, where he received his on-the-job training. He is paid not only an adequate wage, but is assured of a percentage on the sales of services he makes. Following close on the heels of this successful experiment, the Federation of the Handicapped's representatives offered a plan whereby pretrained personnel can be made available to any Navy Exchange that needs them, wherever located. A second man is now in training. Lawrence Shierlock, victim of poliomyelitis, when he is thoroughly prepared will go on the job at the Personal Services Center at the Naval Station in Charleston, South Carolina. This is how the practical details of this pioneering job have been worked out:

When NSSO receives a request from a Navy Exchange Officer who wishes to participate in the program of hiring pretrained handicapped personnel to operate a Personal Services Center, the Federation arranges for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office located in the area of the Exchange to send prescreened applicants to the Navy Exchange for an interview. The applicants necessarily will be men living in the area of the Exchange, but all training will be supervised in New York City by Federation of the Handicapped. Once the applicant has been accepted by the local Navy Exchange personnel officer, his responsibility for the handicapped employee ceases until the applicant returns to the Exchange, fully trained to operate all necessary machines and fully qualified to act as a salesman for the services his customers want. Training will be supplemented by on-the-job experience in the Personal Services Center at a Brooklyn Navy Exchange.

The exchange which eventually will hire the handicapped person pays no part of the expenses of his training or transportation to the

training area. He will be put on the Exchange payroll only when he arrives trained and ready to work.

In addition to making possible a revolving nucleus of pretrained personnel not readily available in most communities, the Navy Exchange Offices are also making a constructive community contribution by making it possible to open new avenues of training, employment, and job security for handicapped persons in areas where they might never have had them.

MEET THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND

(Editor's note: The following biographical sketches are reprinted from the National Federation of the Blind's official publication, "Who Are the Blind Who Lead the Blind?" released in January, 1963.)

STANLEY OLIVER

Member, Executive Committee

Powerful testimony to the fact that blindness need not be a barrier to a full, active and thoroughly normal life is to be found in the vigorous and varied career of Stanley Oliver of Detroit, Michigan. In addition to his important role with the National Federation, he is a board member and legislative chairman of the Michigan Council of the Blind and has served for 16 years as editor of its braille and print magazine, The Eye-Opener. Oliver is also a past president of the Michigan Federation of the Blind, a long-time member of the advisory board to the state's division of Service for the Blind, and holds down a position on the advisory board of the Metropolitan Society for the Blind.

In 1962, Oliver acted as general chairman for the NFB's national convention held in Detroit. A few years earlier he was called upon to testify before a congressional committee in Washington on behalf of the Federation's campaign for a bill granting the blind the right to organize and to be consulted in the formulation of public programs affecting their welfare. As state legislative chairman, he

has often represented the Michigan Council of the Blind before committees of the state legislature.

Besides these productive and time-consuming activities on behalf of the blind of his state and nation, Oliver is president of the Detroit division of the Piano Technicians Guild, serves on its national committee, and for almost a decade has edited a column, "Tricks of the Trade," published regularly in the Braille Piano Technician. On still another level of community activity, he is secretary of the Association of Presbyterian Men, Winchester Village Church.

Born in 1913, Oliver graduated from Detroit's Cass Technical High School in 1930 with such distinction that he was awarded the John P. Wicker scholarship in the fine arts, providing a year of paid tuition in artistic fields. Following this training Oliver completed a year of college at Wayne State University before deciding to launch his own business as a contractor in the painting trades.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, Oliver lost his sight. He found employment during the war years with the Ford Motor Company as a specialist in electrical subassembly work, and meanwhile turned to the study of piano servicing in order to master a trade more secure in its prospects -- and less discriminatory toward the blind -- than the fluctuating cycles of industrial employment. Leaving the factory in 1948, he added rug-making and sales to his work as a piano technician until he had built a servicing business large enough to support himself, his wife and two children. Two of his major accounts today include the Detroit public school system and the music department of Wayne State University.

Stanley Oliver's talent for helping and instructing others apparently runs in the family. Today both his son, Jim, and his daughter, Patricia, are teachers in the public schools.

* * * * *

ISABELLE L. D. GRANT

Member, Board of Directors

Famed the world over for her inspired and inspiring labors toward the education of the blind of all nations, Dr. Isabelle Grant may well be termed the unofficial ambassador-at-large of America's

organized blind. For the past several years an executive officer of the California Council of the Blind and trustee of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, she was named an honorary board member by the National Federation of the Blind in 1960.

Teacher, counselor, vice-principal, writer and lecturer -- and finally resource teacher -- Dr. Grant retired in 1962 after 35 years of outstanding service in the Los Angeles city schools. Although she had lost her sight 12 years earlier, she continued her teaching career without letup -- but with a new mission and specific purpose: helping to train and rehabilitate sightless children in the integrated school program.

A native of Scotland, Dr. Grant received her education from the University of Aberdeen, the University of Paris and the University of Madrid, and later acquired a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

In 1959, accompanied only by "Oscar" (her cane), Dr. Grant set out on a year-long sabbatical-leave tour which took her to no less than 21 Middle Eastern, Asian and Far Eastern countries. On her journey she flew from country to country for the primary purpose of "meeting people and listening to their thinking." But she also studied the training and rehabilitation programs for the blind in each nation, and organized pioneer educational projects in many. One notable result of her contacts was that, in cooperation with the Lions Club in Karachi, the California Council of the Blind and other groups and individuals throughout the country have since sent thousands of pairs of glasses to the visually handicapped of Pakistan.

The extent of Dr. Grant's influential efforts in West Pakistan may be measured by the fact that in 1962 she returned there to resume her educational project under a Fulbright Fellowship, with the full official approval both of the U. S. State Department and of the governmental authorities of Pakistan. But perhaps the warmest testimony to her work and leadership is to be found in the words of a pamphlet published in 1960 by the newly formed Pakistan Resource Teachers Association:

"We know that the visit of Dr. Grant to Pakistan has been a source of great inspiration and encouragement not only for the blind of the country but also for those who are working for the welfare of the blind. When the Directorate of Education agreed to organize a

six weeks' Seminar on the Education of the Blind, it was more of a personal favour to Dr. Grant than anything else. None expected that this Seminar would continue for more than a week but the magnetic personality and the new ideas of the instructor kept all of us together.... And every time we left the classroom we were more enthusiastic and thrilled. It is said that attitudes take a long time to change but we, the participants of this class, had completely changed our attitudes towards the blind by the end of the fourth week of the Seminar."

WELFARE POLICY OF SEARCHING HOMES CONDEMNED

The spreading practice of searching the homes of public assistance recipients under state welfare plans has itself come under "searching scrutiny" in a recent memorandum by Professor Charles A. Reich of Yale University Law School. In a thoroughly documented 16-page (single-spaced) opinion entitled, "Searching Homes of Public Assistance Recipients: The Issues Under the Social Security Act," Professor Reich first examines the status of the home-searching practice under general federal law and then the "basic question" of whether such searches may be carried on consistently with the purposes of the Social Security Act. His conclusions, summarily stated at the end of the memorandum:

"1. Searching homes of public assistance recipients without warrant violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments;

"2. Congress has specifically forbidden the enforcement of federal laws by such methods;

"3. A state welfare plan embodying such methods of enforcement would necessarily be inconsistent with the Social Security Act;

"4. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has the power and the duty to disapprove any state plan in which searches of homes are part of the method of administration."

At the outset of his study, Professor Reich points out that "public agencies responsible for enforcing eligibility requirements frequently make surprise visits to recipients' homes to determine whether the recipient has misrepresented family circumstances and, especially,

whether the father or some other man is living at home." These visitations are commonly made without warrants and in the middle of the night, with inspectors demanding entry and then looking over the premises, he observes. ". . . on occasion there have been mass raids designed as general checks on eligibility. The demand for entry may carry with it the threat, express or implied, that refusal to admit will lead to discontinuance of public assistance."

With respect to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments -- which guarantee "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures" -- the Yale law professor puts three subsidiary questions: "(a) Whether the searches are conducted with the consent, express or implied, of the recipients; (b) whether the object of the searches is to secure evidence for criminal prosecution or forfeiture; (c) whether the searches, under all the circumstances, are reasonable." The answers to all three questions are held to be in the negative.

On the issue of consent, Professor Reich notes that "the mere demand for admission [into the home] by one in authority is likely to be considered as coercive" by the courts; and he concludes on the basis of numerous Supreme Court cases that "the opening of a door by a welfare recipient, in response to a demand by official investigators, is not consent to a search." Moreover, he points out, this conclusion has been reached "without assuming the existence of any threats to the occupants. In reality, there is often a threat, sometimes made explicitly, and sometimes merely present in the mind of the recipients, that unless inspectors are admitted public assistance will be taken away." On the basis of this element of coercion, he expresses "little doubt that the Court would deem even an implied threat to cut off assistance as coercive in a welfare search situation."

After exploring various theories advanced in support of the home-searching policy in welfare, Professor Reich declares: "In summary, there is no theory under which it can be said that public assistance recipients consent, expressly or impliedly, to searches of their homes. The official demand for entrance is sufficient to render any apparent consent involuntary, the threat of loss of public assistance underscores the coercive nature of the demand for entry, and no law requires, or could require, consent to such searches as a condition of receipt of public assistance."

The Object of the Search

Next Professor Reich turns to the question whether the object

or purpose of a search affects its validity under the Fourth Amendment, and more particularly whether an inspection for the purpose of checking on eligibility does not have more constitutional latitude than a search for evidence of crime. Recalling that in the landmark case of Frank v. Maryland, the Supreme Court had authorized a public health inspection of homes as a "non-criminal" inspection, he expresses belief that the Court's holding "would not be extended to apply to welfare searches" because the latter lack all of the careful safeguards present in the Frank case. "Instead, welfare searches are very frequently the very 'midnight knock on the door' which the Court condemned." Furthermore, he declares that recent Supreme Court decisions show the high tribunal "to be moving toward a more sweeping, rather than narrower, interpretation of the right of privacy."

But Professor Reich goes on to assert that the very assumption that welfare searches are not searches for evidence of crime is open to serious question. Citing a number of cases in which such home visitations have led to criminal prosecution, he concludes that "many if not all such inspections are properly classified as criminal searches.... It follows that welfare searches are unlawful unless they can be justified as 'reasonable' within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment's language prohibiting only 'unreasonable' searches." And on this score he notes that the Supreme Court regards searches without a warrant as unreasonable even where officers have grounds for believing they will uncover evidence of wrongdoing. On the basis of relevant Court cases, he reaches the conclusion that "inspecting the homes of persons receiving public assistance without warrants is, regardless of variations in circumstances, unreasonable and therefore illegal and unconstitutional. No arguments based on necessity to enforce the welfare laws will justify the search without warrants of the homes of welfare recipients. Nor will any amount of information showing the likelihood of violation. On this question, the Supreme Court has been so clear and consistent that further citation of authorities is unnecessary. The practice of welfare searches is, we must conclude, a clear violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments."

It is so, writes Professor Reich, because, in the words of the Court only two years ago, "At the very core" of the Fourth Amendment "stands the right of a man to retreat into his own home and there be free from unreasonable governmental intrusion."

The Responsibility of H.E.W.

The conclusion reached by Professor Reich -- that home

searches of public aid recipients without a warrant violates the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments -- leads him next to examine two specific questions regarding social security: whether such searches are compatible with the Act, and whether the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has any power or responsibility with respect to them. On the first question, he points to two federal statutes -- the first dealing with unwarranted searches by officers or agents of the United States, the second prohibiting state and federal officials from enforcing any law by means that deprive people of their constitutional rights. On the basis of these specific laws, as well as Constitutional standards for administration of public programs, he holds the policy of searches to be incompatible with operation of the programs of social security. Moreover, a review of the powers and responsibilities of the Secretary of H.E.W. demonstrates that "his duty to exercise his power by prohibiting the unconstitutional practices is both plain and unavoidable."

"It should be added," writes Professor Reich, "that the Secretary's moral duty is particularly great because persons on public assistance are hardly in a position to enforce their rights of privacy. They are the nation's underprivileged, without the means or knowledge to litigate constitutional questions. If they are denied assistance either because of the evidence found after an illegal search or because they resisted an illegal search, lengthy, expensive and uncertain court proceedings would be required to overturn this denial. The federal government should not place upon the most unfortunate of its citizens the burden of vindicating constitutional rights at the risk of their own and their children's subsistence."

The concluding paragraph of Professor Reich's memorandum deserves to be quoted in full:

"One final word seems appropriate. The chief object of the Fourth Amendment was to protect the home and, thereby, the integrity of every individual. The object of the Social Security Act was also to protect the home, and to protect the independence and self-respect of the individual. It would undo the most fundamental purpose of the Act if it were to be carried out by methods that violate the sanctity of the home and degrade and humiliate individual recipients. To insist that officials who administer funds appropriated under the Social Security Act must obey the Fourth Amendment is no more than to insist that the high aim of that Act not be forgotten in the day-to-day difficulties of carrying it out; and to make certain that the Act remains what it was, above all, intended to be -- a guardian and insurer of the dignity of man."

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Virginia Federationists Convene. The sixth annual convention of the Virginia Federation of the Blind, held in Winchester, May 11 and 12, featured an unusual number of outstanding speeches, reports and discussions by prominent guests and state Federation members. The problems of enacting legislation at the Washington level were informatively dealt with by two experts: first by John Nagle, Washington office chief of the National Federation of the Blind, who presented both a report on the progress of current legislation affecting the blind and a paper on the NFB's methods of presenting its case before the national government. The second expert testimony was that of Tim Seward, administrative assistant to Congressman Walter S. Baring of Nevada, who spoke to the convention on "Tracing a Bill through Congress."

Nagle also presented a paper on "Employment Opportunities for the Blind," and moderated a sparkling panel discussion on the theme of opportunities in Virginia. Panel participants included Don Brown, who operates a telephone answering service; Robert W. McDonald, cook; Garland Nicely, industrial worker, and Inez Staton, X-ray technician. Definitely a high point of the convention, the group discussion represented a successful effort to demonstrate the range of employment opportunities through the exemplary achievements of blind individuals in various career fields.

Don Capps of South Carolina, second vice president of the National Federation of the Blind, delivered a banquet address on the subject, "Three Keys to Success." Capps also gave the convention a detailed report on the activities of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind.

With most officers elected in 1962 continuing for another year, the following new elections were held: Mrs. Bernice James, of Richmond, was named corresponding secretary to fill out the remaining year of a two-year term; James A. Garnett, of Richmond, became a two-year board member; Amy Barnes, of Winchester, was chosen to the board for the remaining year of an unexpired term; Milton Perry, of Winchester, was selected to be the delegate to the 1963 convention of the NFB; and Marian McDonald, of Alexandria, was elected as alternate delegate. The convention also voted to hold its 1964 convention in Alexandria, with the Potomac Chapter acting as host.

* * * * *

Clyde Ross Wins Lions Post. Clyde Ross, president of the Ohio Council of the Blind (a state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind) was elected Custodian of the Braille Fund at the 1963 Ohio Lions Convention. This automatically makes Clyde chairman of the Braille Board, which is responsible for the publication and distribution of the Lions International Juvenile Braille Monthly Magazine.

* * * * *

JFK Honors 4 Blind Students. President Kennedy presented \$500 scholarship awards to four blind students from across the country in late May as the climax of a contest sponsored by Recording for the Blind, New York City. The four students receiving the distinction for "outstanding scholastic achievement" were Charles Edwin Vaughn, of South Charleston, West Virginia; Jean Holland Van Ormer, of Cumberland, Maryland; Patrick Vincent Poppe, of New York, and Richard Henry Fidler, Hatboro, Pennsylvania. The age of the students ranged from 22 to 25.

* * * * *

Free Course for Blind-Deaf. The famous Hadley School for the Blind, of Winnetka, Illinois, is planning to offer a new course for those who are both blind and deaf, to be called "Independent Living Without Sight or Hearing." The course will cover such subjects as communication, travel, business and how to get cooperation.

THE BLIND AMERICAN is indebted to Will Bowman of Los Angeles for additional information with respect to this important educational opportunity. Mr. Bowman, an independent businessman who is himself both blind and deaf, tells us: "Mr. Richard Kinney, who is working on the project for the school, writes me that they are taking enrollments immediately so as to get an idea of how many students they will have, and that he has received several inquiries from home teachers and welfare consultants and desires to reach as many of these handicapped people as possible. I might say that the course is entirely in Braille and will be sent by mail, without charge, as the school is maintained entirely by voluntary contributions of the alumni who think that they have been benefited by the course after having taken it."

* * * * *

New Audio Approach. Through the use of educational tape recordings, students of physical medicine and rehabilitation throughout the United States and many foreign countries will have access to clinical discussions of various aspects of rehabilitation.

Under a project conducted by New York's famed Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the World Rehabilitation Fund, 170 rehabilitation training institutions throughout the world will receive a series of twenty-four 2-hour educational tape recordings on rehabilitation. Each institution is also receiving a tape recorder player weighing just over 13 pounds.

Dr. Howard A. Rusk, director of the Institute, said of the project, "One of its great values is that physicians all over the world will have access to clinical discussions on various aspects of rehabilitation which do not lend themselves easily to publication in printed form." Dr. Rusk also said the recordings are designed for individual rather than group listening. "We hope a physician or student will use the equipment as he would use a reference book from the library. This is practical because of the very light weight of the player-recorders," he said.

The United States portion of the project is being aided by a grant from the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration. The international aspects are being aided by the World Rehabilitation Fund with the assistance of the Radio Corporation of America.

* * * * *

Carolínians Receive Home Award. The following article appeared originally last April in a Columbia, South Carolina, newspaper and was republished in the May issue of THE PALMETTO AURORAN, journal of South Carolina's Aurora Club of the Blind:

"A blind Columbian and his wife moved into their new home Thursday. They were able to buy the house because of a grant which was awarded them by the Columbia Aurora Club of the Blind. Mr. and Mrs. James Sims, a couple in their thirties, were awarded the \$500 grant last March. The gift was made possible by Ways and Means for the Blind, Inc., of Augusta, Georgia, whose president is a blind South Carolinian, Hubert E. Smith. The cash award was given to the couple to be used toward the purchase of a home.

"Sims is employed at the Association of the Blind workshop on

Confederate Avenue. The Sims are members of the Aurora Club of the Blind. The cash award is known as the George A. McKie Award and is given annually by Ways and Means for the Blind to a sightless couple solely for the purpose of acquiring a home. It is one of 26 philanthropies sponsored by the group. Ways and Means for the Blind have given some 40 gifts in the past 25 years, according to Donald C. Capps, president of the Aurora Club. Capps says that more blind people have homes in South Carolina than any other state in the Union, due to the gifts from the Augusta organization. Last year the grant was given to Mr. and Mrs. Max Bonner, both Aurorans."

* * * * *

Ophthalmology Prof Honored. Dr. Michael J. Hogan, chairman of the University of California's Department of Ophthalmology, received the Proctor Gold Medal of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology at an Atlantic City meeting June 18. The Proctor Medal, among the highest honors an ophthalmologist can receive, is awarded annually to an outstanding contributor to research on the eye and its diseases. Among Dr. Hogan's research contributions have been studies of infectious and inflammatory diseases of the eye, the action of enzymes on various eye structures, and glaucoma.

* * * * *

"Ability Counts" Essay Winner. Kathleen Johanna Lewis, 17-year-old Philadelphia high school student, was the winner recently of an essay contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Her composition, entitled "How My Community Benefits from the Abilities of Handicapped Workers," was chosen from among 71 essays submitted by young state residents. Miss Lewis will receive among other prizes a college scholarship and a trip to Washington to attend the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

* * * * *

New Book by Jacob Freid. Dr. Jacob Freid, executive director of the Jewish Braille Institute and long-time friend of the organized blind, is the editor of a newly published study, Jews in the Modern World, published in two volumes by Twayne Publishers, Inc., 31 Union Square West, New York 3, New York. Already the subject of high praise by experts in the field as "a veritable encyclopedia of information and ideas about Jewish life the world over," Dr. Freid's book has also been heralded as "a classic . . . a remarkable treasure-house of information and profoundly perceptive insight into the Jewish condition of our time."

Jews in the Modern World answers such questions as: What has happened to Jews and Jewish life throughout the world during this past generation? What are the significant trends in Jewish life and how will they influence the next generation? The essays in the volume -- contributed by such recognized authorities as Gordon W. Allport, David Ben Gurion, Mordecai Kaplan, Will Maslow, Leo Pfeffer and others, as well as by Dr. Freid -- examine and analyze the cultural, demographic, economic, social and political characteristics of contemporary Jewish life.

Dr. Freid, well-known to blind Americans as editor of the JEWISH BRAILLE REVIEW, is currently chairman of the department of political science, Senior College of the New School for Social Research, in New York City.

* * * * *

Blinded Vet Runs Trailer Court. George Mitchell, blinded veteran of Denver, Colorado, was the subject of a recent feature story in the BVA BULLETIN (publication of the Blinded Veterans Association) for his achievement in successfully establishing and operating a large-scale trailer court. Mitchell, who uses neither a cane nor a seeing-eye dog, was said to be so familiar with every structure in his 114-trailer establishment that he can tell where he is just by touching something.

"Mitchell did much of the construction work in the trailer court and now does most of the maintenance," the article notes. "He uses many kinds of power tools, including a circular saw and welding torches. He has hurt himself only once. In 1960 he nicked the tip of one finger with the saw."

In addition Mitchell cut all the sewer and water pipe for his flourishing enterprise, which is nearly always filled to capacity. "He knows how to patch the sewer lines and does his own plumbing. He dug the post holes in the court and stretched the wire fences. George built a swing set on the playground in the middle of the court. The many children who play there know him by name and hail him whenever he comes out. He in turn knows his tenants by voice," the journal said.

* * * * *

Notable Talking Books. Recent additions to the ever-growing list of Talking Book literature available from the Library of Congress

and its regional branch libraries for the blind indicate a rising level of taste and quality in reading material. Following is a partial check list of new Talking Books which have received solid critical acceptance in their fields:

Richard H. Rovere, The American Establishment; Robert Russell, To Catch an Angel; Frederic Morton, The Rothschilds; Marston Bates, Man in Nature; John Steinbeck, Travels with Charley; Robert L. Heilbroner, The Making of Economic Society; Alan Moorehead, The Blue Nile; William Faulkner, The Reivers; James Baldwin, Nobody Knows My Name; Walter Kerr, The Decline of Pleasure; Lawrence Durrell, The Dark Labyrinth; Mary Renault, The Bull From the Sea; Elizabeth Bowen, Seven Winters.

* * * * *

BVA Convention Set. The 18th annual convention of the Blinded Veterans Association will meet in Columbus, Ohio, August 6-10, with headquarters at the Deshler Hilton Hotel. All blinded veterans as well as BVA members are invited to attend what the Ohio Regional Group predicts to be the largest convention yet held by the national organization.

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NEW STUDY OF WORLD COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

A sweeping public review of the nature and composition of United States representation in the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind has been set in motion by the six U.S. delegates presently comprising that representation.

The comprehensive appraisal, first in the 13-year history of the world organization, was agreed upon by the six delegates in a meeting July 22 at Seattle. Coming as it does preparatory to next year's World Assembly session in New York, the review is expected to excite broad public discussion across the country on the basic question of how blind Americans may best be represented and served within the international framework of the World Council.

As a first step the U.S. delegation plans to address inquiries to organizations of the blind, welfare agencies, associations and institutions of all kinds in work for the blind -- seeking answers to the question: "Do you wish to be represented in the World Council?"

All organized groups and agencies interested in being represented -- as well as in the issues of how such representation should be apportioned and distributed -- are invited to communicate with Mr. Robert Barnett of the U.S. delegation, who has kindly consented, at the request of his fellow delegates, to serve as the ad hoc secretary of the group. Mr. Barnett, the executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, may be addressed at the Foundation's offices, 15 West 16th Street, New York 11, New York.

By provision of the World Council constitution, the United States was assigned a total of six delegates. The original distribution of these seats, made 13 years ago, has never been altered. The delegates attend sessions of the World Assembly every five years, and some are also members of the Executive Committee (which has five North American seats). The agencies or organizations represented by delegates must therefore be financially capable of supporting considerable travel expenses, as well as the membership dues of \$100 per year.

The present members of the U.S. Delegation, in addition to Mr. Barnett, are: Professor Jacobus tenBroek, representing the National Federation of the Blind; Max Woolly, American Association of Instructors of the Blind; Eric T. Boulter, American Foundation for Overseas Blind; Marjorie S. Hooper and Gordon B. Connor, American Association of Workers for the Blind.

It is hoped that the responses of organizations to the delegates' inquiry will also suggest guidelines and standards helpful to the group in its study of how representation of the American blind in the World Council may best be carried out. The review process is expected, among other things, to raise fundamental questions of political science and procedure -- such as those of the relative merits of proportional, regional and functional representation.

Also prominent among the issues to be faced is that of the proper balance between organizations of the blind and agencies for the blind in the U.S. delegation.

In the effort to devise a system of appropriate tests and standards governing the selection of groups to be represented, the U.S. delegates will seek to give weight to such factors as the size and makeup of organizations, the scope of their membership or clientele (national, regional, statewide, etc.), the character of programs and services, and many others.

It is emphasized that these standards will themselves undergo appraisal and review in the course of the study, which should be completed in time to determine the U.S. delegation to the World Assembly meeting in August, 1964. Following the receipt of replies to their questionnaire, the delegates will meet in November to process the list of interested organizations, and to begin the evaluation of claims. After more extended review, they plan to meet again in January or February to provide an opportunity for those eliminated or doubtful to obtain a hearing.

CALIFORNIA'S BREAK-THROUGH ON RESIDENCE

A highly significant break-through in blind welfare -- removing at a stroke one of the oldest and most onerous obstacles to the granting of public assistance to those in need of it -- has occurred in California with the enactment of a bill abolishing all length-of-residence requirements as a condition of eligibility for state Aid to the Blind.

The new measure (A.B. 59), introduced by Assemblyman Philip Burton, stipulates only the fact of state residence and explicitly declares that "No period of residence in this State is required" under the blind program.

In a related move toward liberalization the state law also reduces the residence requirement for Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled from five to three years.

This bold action by California to free its welfare programs from one of the rustiest shackles of the mediæval poor law poses a direct challenge to the nation -- not to the states alone but to Congress and the Federal Government.

The two most populous states in the Union -- New York and California -- have now rid themselves of the antiquated and inequitable restriction of fixed residence for their needy blind populations. Four other states as well -- Connecticut, Hawaii, Mississippi, and Rhode Island -- have abolished their residence requirements, together with the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has long been on record in opposition to residence requirements in state welfare programs and in favor of their abolition.

So has the National Advisory Council on Public Assistance, which in its 1960 official report flatly labeled all such limitations on residence as "anachronisms" and declared that "It is time for a change." So, too, has the National Social Welfare Assembly, which has established a special committee to drum up interest in the problem and work for the elimination of the residence laws.

The American Legion and the National Travelers Aid Society, among numerous other concerned public groups, have also set up committees to explore the issue and find the means of its solution.

It is time that Congress heard the voice of the people on this issue of social justice and acted firmly to knock down the barbed-wire fences of extended residence all across the land.

The bills are there, in the hopper, ready to go. They are: H.R. 5706, introduced by Congressman Walter S. Baring; and H.R. 6245, introduced by Congressman Cecil R. King.

It is notable that when the Federal Administration was pressing only a few years ago for the abolition of residence restrictions in welfare, California's Congressional representatives were among the opponents of the move -- apparently in fear that it would result in a stampede of the needy into the Golden State. Now that their own state has seen fit to eliminate its residence bans in aid to the blind, those Congressmen should (out of self-interest as well as altruism) be among

the first to seek an extension of the residence benefit to all the states.

The case for the abolition of residence requirements in public welfare is clear and conclusive. It has been systematically set forth by the National Federation of the Blind, along with other citizen groups, in public testimony over the years. Its main features may be briefly stated.

Free movement across state borders and from one community to another is a basic right of all Americans, bound up with the right to opportunity and free expression, and encouraged by our economic system and our political commitment to individual liberty. The motives of blind persons in their movements are no different from those of other people: either they result from the search for broader horizons of opportunity or they are impelled by reasons of health. More immediately pertinent is the fact that the right of blind men and women to be unrestricted in their movement, in their departure from one state to take up residence in another, is intimately related to the announced purposes of self-support and self-care under the Federal-State public assistance program. It follows therefore that the residence barriers presently erected in most state programs of aid are contradictory of these purposes.

It is not the blind alone who suffer from the discrimination and deprivation wrought by state residence barriers. But the effects are substantially the same for the blind as for those economically disadvantaged groups whose right to movement was upheld by the Supreme Court in the famous case of Edwards vs. California (314 U.S. 160, 1942). "Any measure," wrote Justice Jackson in that case, "which would divide our citizenry on the basis of property into one class free to move from state to state and another class that is poverty-bound to the place where it has suffered misfortune is not only at war with the habit and custom by which our country has expanded, but is also a shortsighted blow at the security of property itself." Justice Douglas in the same case warned that any state prohibitions upon the free immigration of persons who are poor "would prevent a citizen, because he was poor, from seeking new horizons in other states. It might thus withhold from large segments of our people that mobility which is basic to any guarantee of freedom of opportunity. The result would be a substantial dilution of the rights of national citizenship, a serious impairment of the principles of equality."

The imposition of residence requirements as conditions of eligibility for public assistance, accordingly, constitutes a denial to blind recipients of that right of free movement which is indispensable to opportunity. Now that self-care and self-support have become part of the declared purpose of the Federal program of public assistance,

such requirements deprive the recipient of aid of one of the primary and frequently essential means of achieving that goal -- namely, the right to follow the path of economic opportunity and personal improvement wherever it may lead.

A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH RESIDENCE LAWS

(Editor's note: The National Federation of the Blind, in its Annual Convention, July 3-6, 1963, at Philadelphia, gave unanimous approval to the following resolution.)

WHEREAS, Congressman Walter S. Baring, Nevada, continuing his sincere, steadfast, and vigorous support of the beliefs and objectives of the National Federation of the Blind, has introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 5706; and

WHEREAS, this bill would prohibit the imposition of any length of residence requirement in state programs providing aid to the blind, permitting all persons who are otherwise eligible for public assistance in the state to receive the same upon acquiring residence; and

WHEREAS, enactment of this measure into federal law is most essential if qualified and employable blind persons who are recipients of aid are to be permitted, encouraged, and assisted to seek employment opportunities for jobs for which they are qualified wherever such jobs can be found throughout the entire country; and

WHEREAS, enactment of this proposal into law is most necessary if professional and vocational training and other rehabilitative services are to culminate in remunerative employment for substantial numbers of blind persons; and

WHEREAS, such freedom of movement is particularly of overwhelming importance to persons who are both deaf and blind, and for whom there are now available drastically limited employment opportunities in a number of states of which they may not freely avail themselves because of durational residence restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California, with public assistance programs

for the blind among the most generous in the nation, and other attractions not to be minimized, has recently abolished durational residence requirements for blind persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this 4th day of July, 1963; that the organized blind thank and commend Congressman Baring for his fine cooperation and always eager willingness to assist us in our efforts to lessen the disadvantages of blindness, and particularly thank Congressman Baring for the introduction of H.R. 5706; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers and staff of the National Federation of the Blind are directed to take all necessary actions to secure the adoption of H.R. 5706 by the 88th Congress.

WHITHER THE WORLD COUNCIL?

By Dr. Jacobus tenBroek

(Editor's note: Professor Jacobus tenBroek delivered the following address before the National Federation of the Blind in its annual convention at Philadelphia, July 4, 1963. He spoke in his capacity as the Federation's delegate to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind. His address is two things in one: it is, first, a report on developments within the World Council during the last year, and particularly upon the shameful way in which the National Federation was stripped of its seat on the World Council Executive Committee. At the same time, the speech is a thoughtful consideration of some important things that the World Council ought to be doing. Dr. tenBroek is professor of political science at the University of California (Berkeley), where he has made a distinguished reputation as a teacher. Through his many books and other publications he has acquired a national reputation as a constitutionalist and a welfare authority.)

The World Council for the Welfare of the Blind is now in its thirteenth year of existence. What has it accomplished? Where does it stand today? Whither is it tending?

Surely no organization, even if it were a world government

rather than a voluntary association, could hope in so short a time to command the many crushing problems that plague the blind populations of our crowded planet. It could scarcely begin to contend with the burdens of poverty alone -- an impoverishment so massive and total as to leave millions of the sightless in a hundred countries at or near the level of starvation. Add to that the inexorable dilemmas of ignorance, disease, economic exclusion and pariah status -- and a beginning is made toward recognition of the plight of nine-tenths of the world's blind.

In these desperate and seemingly hopeless circumstances, what is there that can be done? What can we reasonably expect of such a body as the World Council?

We can expect, first of all, inspired leadership: a leadership of men to match these mountains of insecurity and terror: a leadership that is creative, resourceful and affirmative -- rather than timid, conservative and exhausted. We can demand vigilant awareness of where the crucial problems lie, and unremitting attention to the means and strategies of combatting them. We can hope for a sweeping vision of frontiers to be sought and conquered; for a deeply felt appreciation of the universal needs and aspirations of blind people the world over; for an unswerving commitment to their rights as human beings and fellow citizens of the world; and for a persistent and impatient agitation--drumming its message on the ears of governments and into the minds of people -- toward their gradual translation into fact.

Most of all we can expect and demand of that leadership a reach of rhetoric to match its depth of dedication: a bold capacity for fresh and eloquent expression of the high goals of social evolution -- the emancipating goals of opportunity and equality, of independence and integration -- to which any world organization for the welfare of the blind must surely be devoted.

We cannot expect immediate solutions to the global terrors of fear and hunger which torment the blind; but we can expect an impassioned proclamation of their urgency and devastation. We cannot expect a cure-all for the cultural and social blights that stunt the growth of countless blind youths and condemn them to lives of futile desperation; but we can expect a resounding manifesto against the defeatism and indifference that permit these things to rage unchecked. We cannot expect a social revolution overnight; but we can expect a full and fearless revelation. We cannot expect, from the labors of the World Council, an instant conferral upon the world's blind of the epaulets of dignity and the credentials of acceptance; but we can expect, and we can demand, a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Blind Persons -- a declaration paralleling and enlarging the two great pronouncements already promulgated by the

United Nations: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

That is what a World Council, fit to give the whole world counsel, can do. And that is what it may undertake to become for all the blind: not a guardian but a leader; not an institution but a movement.

How does the present World Council measure up to these standards? What has it done in fact, and what does it propose to do in principle? It proposes first to work for the welfare of the blind throughout the world. It proposes next to provide the means of consultation between organizations of and for the blind in different countries. It proposes, "wherever possible", joint action towards the introduction of minimum welfare standards. And it proposes finally to help in the improvement of such standards.

That is all. Those are the high purposes, and the only purposes, to which the World Council is constitutionally committed. Surely they are minimum purposes, cautious and conservative objectives, for so august and international a body.

But if the constitutional purposes of the World Council are conventional and meager, its actual performance over the past dozen years has been inconsequential and trifling. It has formed committees, one or two of substantial scope but most of them involved with the routine matters of social services, technical appliances and braille uniformity. It has increased membership fees -- and numerous member nations have declined to pay them. It has voted funds for traveling representatives, and its representatives have traveled. It has published a periodical bulletin, which few have received and fewer still have ever read. It has immersed itself in the minutiae of administrative chores and staff reports. It has avoided offending any vested interests in the superannuated agencies of the world. It has placed its stamp of approval upon sheltered workshops and other mouldering artifacts of custodial caretaking. It has gone through the motions of a live body, but has placed no substantial matter in motion. In general, and in effect, it has tended to let ill enough alone.

The deepest failure of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind may be simply stated. It has shown itself to be lacking in vision. It has been unable to prevent its own blindness. Confronted with the grave social and human issues facing blind people everywhere, it has chosen to look away. It has shed no light and generated no heat.

Why has the World Council never prepared or debated such a Universal Declaration as I have proposed? Why has it remained silent

concerning the human rights of blind persons -- their right to organize, their right to opportunity, their right of access to normal callings and pursuits, their right to equality? The answer is not far to seek. The Council has not thought of blind people in terms of rights but in terms of incapacities -- of lacks and losses that can be readily catalogued and catered to by social services, technical appliances, therapeutic aids and a uniform braille code. Its leaders have chosen to regard the welfare of the blind as synonymous with the activities of their agencies.

No one should be surprised by this agency posture. From the beginning the World Council has been little more than a confederation of agencies. It was born, as an official account tells us, out of discussions held at an International Conference of Workers for the Blind -- which agreed to create an organization to "enable workers for the blind everywhere to unite" in order to further their collective interests. Nothing was said about an organization enabling blind people everywhere to unite in order to carry out their collective interests. The constitution of the World Council further nails down the premise: "All Representative Members", according to Article II, Section 2, "should hold or have held responsible positions in the direction or administration of recognized agencies for the blind."

It is this clearcut and thoroughgoing agency domination of the World Council which has produced an inevitable conflict between the Council leadership and the National Federation of the Blind -- a conflict which was brought to a climax during 1962 by two successive and related events. Both events were calculated devices aimed at eliminating the voice of the organized blind from the ruling organs of the World Council. Let us look at them in turn.

The first of these events was the removal -- illegal, unconstitutional and arbitrary -- of the NFB from its elective seat on the World Council's Executive Committee. Second was the ratification of that ouster by action of the Executive Committee at its August meeting in Hanover.

The background of the plot to remove the NFB may be briefly summarized. In 1959, the Federation's delegate was elected by the World Assembly in his representative capacity to a five-year term of membership on the Executive Committee. That election gave the organized blind people of the U.S. their only direct representation on the governing Executive Committee -- with the remaining seats occupied by delegates of national agencies for the blind (that is, the American Foundation, the AAWB, and the American Foundation for Overseas Blind).

In 1961, the NFB's delegate was removed and replaced by the Federation itself. Ostensibly on the basis of this routine action, the

World Council president (Col. E. A. Baker of Canada) wrote in April of 1962 to the North American delegations requesting a mail ballot to fill two asserted vacancies on the Executive Committee -- one of which was the Federation seat.

The claim which has been subsequently pursued by the Federation for restoration of its Executive Committee membership has centered on these main points:

1. The postal ballot was illegal and void, since the NFB's seat had not been and could not be vacated except through withdrawal of the NFB or the normal termination of its five-year tenure;

2. The president's action was unconstitutional, since Executive Committee seats are held by delegates acting not as individuals but in their official capacity as representatives of national agencies or organizations;

3. The agencies' ouster of the NFB was flagrantly inequitable and discriminatory, since organizations of the blind were already grossly under-represented in the World Council as opposed to agencies for the blind, and by this action the American blind in particular were deprived of any voice in the policy-making Executive Committee.

The rejection of our claim by the World Council was first announced in a letter to me (as the NFB's delegate) from Col. Baker on May 23, and was again announced in a letter of June 7 from M. Robert Barnett, self-designated "titular head" of the U.S. delegation to the Council. In the face of this flat refusal, I submitted a formal request on behalf of the Federation that the issue of the NFB's right to its seat on the Executive Committee be placed upon the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee in Hanover, Germany, to be officially decided by that vote.

The negative responses of the World Council officials to this demand for a hearing exposed a blatant defiance of accepted democratic procedure by the Council's ruling body. It was maintained that the NFB's delegate, although a member of the World Council, could not be permitted to attend the Executive Committee meeting because those meetings were closed and secret -- barred against the public and barred even against other members of the World Council. In Barnett's language, "WCWB has always maintained a strict rule that meetings of the Executive Committee shall be attended only by persons who have been duly elected to that Committee."

The NFB convention, meeting in Detroit in July last year, voted

unanimous approval of three separate resolutions relating to the World Council. The first denounced the Council's action in stripping the Federation of its Executive Committee seat, and instructed the Federation's officers and delegate to do all in their power to reverse the decision and regain the seat. The second resolution condemned the Council's policy of secret committee meetings and confirmed our efforts to have this topic placed on the agenda of the coming Executive Committee meeting in Hanover. The third resolution, taking note of the fact that "the World Council is dominated by agencies for the blind . . . and is in any event largely ineffective and inactive", called for the inauguration of "a world organization of the blind people themselves for purposes of self-expression and self-improvement."

At the end of July, as the National Federation's delegate, I journeyed to Hanover, Germany, for the express purpose of representing the NFB before the World Council Executive Committee with respect both to our stolen seat and to the contested policy of closed committee meetings. Every effort was made to secure a hearing; but this was in effect denied to us. What happened was that I was informally and vaguely advised, in the mid-morning of August 3, that the Committee would be at a certain place at noon and that I also should be there. The exact issue under consideration was not divulged. Upon arriving at the appointed place I was told that this was not a session of the Executive Committee, after all, but only a group of "private individuals" who happened to be in the same room at the same time -- and who also happened to comprise the membership of the Executive Committee. I then spoke to this "private" group for 40 minutes on the NFB's position regarding the theft of the Federation's seat, concentrating upon the constitutional, legal and democratic grounds supporting our claim to the elective seat. I gave emphasis to the importance of assuring genuine representation in this ruling body of the World Council to independent associations of the blind. I concluded with an argument on the urgent need for an ostensibly international organization to keep its meetings open and above board rather than barred, as the Committee sessions were barred, against the public and even against other members of the Council.

Following my remarks I was immediately dismissed. Two and a half months later, on October 17, I was informed by letter from Col. Baker that the Committee had reconvened in its regular closed session immediately after my talk and had voted against our request for reinstatement.

In October, also, the World Council published the official minutes of the Hanover meeting. That report was both inaccurate and uninformative on the issue of the contested seat. No indication was given of the broad

constitutional and legal grounds on which the Federation's claim rested; instead the minutes stated merely that the Committee had "listened sympathetically to Dr. tenBroek's exposition of his case" -- which was not true, judging from the hostile expressions heard during the talk -- and had subsequently reconvened in order to turn it down.

President Baker's letter informing me of the negative action of the Committee gave another version. Among other things he disclosed a decision of the Committee which was nowhere to be found in the official minutes -- namely, its rejection of our protest against the policy of secret meetings. That disclosure unwittingly gave renewed point and emphasis to our demand that the World Council abolish its rule of secrecy. It also contradicted the contention of Mr. Barnett -- who had attempted in correspondence with me to refute the charge of secrecy by saying that, after all, the minutes contained everything and were available to all members.

The Federation's dispute with the World Council, meanwhile, attracted wide attention. In addition to regular detailed reports in THE BLIND AMERICAN, the issue came in for lengthy discussion in the pages of LISTEN, a national bi-monthly publication of the Catholic Guild for the Blind in Boston. In its August, 1962 issue, the magazine departed from its usual plane of objectivity to describe the NFB's conflict with the Council as mainly a clash of personalities, and to ignore most of the basic issues involved. It was also noteworthy that the LISTEN article made no reference whatsoever to the Federation's demand that the Council Executive Committee abandon its practice of closed meetings and secret covenants secretly arrived at.

The 1964 General Assembly of the World Council will convene in New York City during the first two weeks of August. Since the Federation's membership in the World Assembly has not as yet been challenged, its delegate will be in attendance at the meeting.

The official theme of the Assembly, we are told, will be "The Problems of the Blind in a Changing World". But a more appropriate theme for that meeting might be "The Problems of the Blind in an Unchanging World Council". The conflict between the National Federation and the reigning officialdom of the Council is less significant in itself than as a symbol of the severe malady from which this global agency is suffering. It is a disease of unsympathetic atrophy, whose symptoms are paralysis of the will, morbid sensitivity to illumination, and a fear of open places -- accompanied by fits of pique and delusions of grandeur.

Whether the sickness which has overtaken the World Council

will prove fatal, only time (and perhaps the next Assembly) can tell. But it has already dealt a crippling blow to the hopes of blind people the world over. Instead of a declaration of rights, the Council has given a recital of difficulties. Instead of proclaiming a call to arms, it has issued a statistical bulletin. Instead of providing an open forum to which all the blind might repair for great argument and high debate, it has confronted them with barred gates, sealed chambers, and secret covenants labelled "confidential".

The founding fathers of the World Council, as we have seen, were of the agencies. Its Representative Members, by constitutional fiat, are of the agencies. Its ruling directorate of titular and non-titular heads are of the agencies. We may say of the World Council, in summary, that the voice it affects is the voice of the blind man -- but the hand is still the hand of the custodian.

BLIND TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOLS

By Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant

(Editor's note: Dr. Grant, a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind, has retired from teaching in the Los Angeles public schools and is currently teaching and working with the blind in Pakistan.)

During the recent convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Philadelphia (July 3-6, 1963), a group of blind teachers -- drawn from delegates, members, and friends of the Federation -- held their fifth annual reunion in the Independence Room of the Sheraton Hotel. The meeting was well attended by representative teachers from kindergarten level through the university, by teachers retired from the profession and interested in placement of blind teachers, as well as by persons planning to enter the teaching profession.

Although much progress has been made in the placement of blind teachers during the last decade -- there being now well over a hundred blind teachers in elementary and secondary schools throughout the nation, and an unknown number, probably equal to that figure, in colleges and universities -- a qualified teacher who is blind still meets with a barrier of discrimination because of his blindness. At the meeting the necessity

was pointed out, and plans made, for the compiling of a brochure to be distributed on a nation-wide scale to state personnel directors in the field of education -- with a concise analysis of legal implications, if any, methods employed by the blind teacher in classroom management, the handling of disciplinary problems, and various techniques developed by blind teachers already in the field. It was further pointed out that the blind teacher who is duly prepared has a distinct contribution to make to a college or school faculty, as well as to the pupils and students in his or her charge. It was also deemed advisable for the group to make contact with such teacher organizations as the National Education Association, the Council for Exceptional Children, and similar organizations of national stature, to seek to establish a policy with regard to the employment of blind teachers.

The question as to how to apply for a teaching position came up for discussion. Much stands to be gained -- or lost -- by the blind applicant in his introductory letter, and in the interview. How does a blind person establish confidence in an employer? What questions would a prospective candidate expect? Some guidance along these lines could conceivably be of benefit to the blind applicant, and prepare him for this new experience of applying for the job.

Caution was expressed regarding the necessity of including all teachers in this drive to open up opportunities for blind teachers. It is a fallacy to believe that the door to the college or to the university is genuinely open to the blind teacher. There could be many more of our highly qualified and highly intelligent blind people in both public and private institutions of higher learning than there are at present. We as the organized blind have made much headway in opening up opportunities for blind persons in civil service, but we are still lagging deplorably behind in the teaching field.

The NFB's President, Russell Kletzing, appointed a committee of three to work out these plans, under chairmanship of Isabelle Grant.

NATIONAL FEDERATION HOLDS CONVENTION

(Editor's note: Following is a convention bulletin released by President Russell Kletzing of the National Federation of the Blind.)

One of the most productive and altogether memorable conventions

in the recent history of the National Federation of the Blind took place in Philadelphia during the first week of July, 1963. Some 600 Federationists -- delegates, members and their families -- converged upon the Sheraton Hotel from all parts of the country to participate in a four-day program remarkable for the number and substance of its activities, both serious and social.

Perhaps the most spirited of the convention's many high points was an unannounced event which occurred on the final morning. It began when our founder and President Emeritus, Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, arose to pay tribute to the extraordinary overseas accomplishments of the Federation's "ambassadors of good works", Isabelle Grant. His talk was climaxed by a motion calling upon the convention to affirm its sponsorship of Dr. Grant's educational mission and to express its moral and financial support. An enthusiastic procession of Federationists thereupon moved to the auditorium microphones to pledge their contributions to the cause. When this extraordinary display was ended, a total of \$1,565 in cash and pledges had been received from individual blind persons and organizations for the NFB's Foreign Aid Fund, to further Isabelle's continuing work for the blind in Pakistan and elsewhere. The details of this magnificent enterprise had been spelled out by Dr. Grant in an earlier convention talk entitled "Return to Pakistan".

Federation members and friends who were unable to contribute in person at Philadelphia, and who wish to help the growth of our Foreign Aid Fund, may do so by sending their contributions to the Federation's treasurer, Franklin VanVliet, R.F.D. No. 7, Penacook, New Hampshire.

Dr. tenBroek's appeal on behalf of the Federation's overseas program was one of three warmly welcomed appearances by our founder before the convention. On July 4 he presented a detailed and decisive paper on recent developments across the country affecting the status of blind employees of sheltered workshops, under the title "Blind Shop Workers: What Are They?" On the last afternoon of the meeting, in his capacity as the Federation's delegate to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, Dr. tenBroek delivered a highly informative and challenging report on the relationship of the organized blind to the World Council, culminating in an appeal for a "Universal Declaration of the Rights of Blind Persons" to be sponsored by the World Council and issued by the United Nations along lines of the UN-sponsored Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Speeches

Among the many distinguished public officials and welfare authorities who addressed the convention was John W. Macy, Jr., Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission, who spoke on "Equal

Employment Opportunity Under the Merit System". His theme of rapidly improving job prospects for the physically handicapped and other deprived groups was summarized in the assertion that "a highly significant change in attitude has taken place in the Federal civil service -- a change from allowing equal opportunity to insisting upon it."

An especially enthusiastic reception was given by the convention to Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, father of the Randolph-Sheppard vending stand law, who spoke on "Areas for Improvement in Programs for the Blind". Reporting on the recent actions of Congress in various fields affecting the blind, Senator Randolph promised to continue his vigorous campaign to correct abuses in the vending-stand program, notably those arising from the unfair competition of automatic vending machines.

"The Peace Corps -- America's Newest Contribution to Underdeveloped Nations" was the subject of an excellent talk by William R. Wister, Jr., Special Assistant to the Director of the Peace Corps, who pointed out that one blind volunteer has already been accepted by the Peace Corps and is presently at work in the National School for the Blind in the Latin American Republic of Santo Domingo, while other blind recruits are being trained and sought.

The broad field of education as it affects the needs and problems of blind people was a major focus of convention interest, with no less than five authoritative speeches addressed to the issue. The director of the Library of Congress's Division for the Blind, Robert Bray, presented an illuminating report on the methods utilized by the Library in the selection of reading material for the blind. Clinton Fair, Legislative Representative of the AFL-CIO, discussed the general subject of "Education and the Blind" from the point of view of organized labor. Dr. Thomas Benham, of Haverford College, covered a more specialized segment of the field identified by his title, "Science for the Blind". The programs and needs of special education received attention from two speakers: Joseph G. Cauffmann, Principal of Pennsylvania's Overbrook School for the Blind, and Robert Langford of the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind.

A brace of expert reports on the recent action of Congress with respect to Federation objectives was supplied by Tim Seward, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Walter Baring and a steadfast supporter of the organized blind, and by John F. Nagle, Chief of the Federation's Washington Office.

Pauline Gomez, the president of New Mexico's Federation of the

Blind, addressing the convention on the subject "To Build an Orientation Center", reported that the state legislature has given approval to a bill sponsored by the NMFB to study the creation of a full-scale modern orientation center for the blind.

Panel Discussions

Four separate panel discussions, each one featuring lively and fruitful exchanges among four experts (as well as between the panel and the audience), provided conventioners with invaluable information and knowledge on such subjects as federal legislation and the new welfare amendments, the administration of services to the blind, and the nature of the handicap of blindness.

"The Effect of the Welfare Amendments of 1962 on Aid to the Blind" was the topic of a highly qualified group moderated by Perry Sundquist, Chief of California's Aid to the Blind program. Members of the panel were John Hurley, Director of the Family Services Division of the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; John Mungovan, Director of Services for the Blind in Massachusetts; and John Nagle, the NFB's indefatigable Washington representative.

The sweeping subject of "Legislation in the 88th Congress Affecting the Blind" was dealt with in a stimulating and instructive manner by another panel chaired by John Nagle and consisting of George Keane, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the American Association of Workers for the Blind; Irvin Schloss, Legislative Analyst for the American Foundation for the Blind; and Dr. Edward Waterhouse, Legislative Chairman for the American Association of Instructors of the Blind. The discussion demonstrated the firmness, range and importance of the common front which prevails among the major organizations and agencies in the field of work for the blind.

"The Nature of the Handicap of Blindness -- and the Programs Necessary to Cope with It" was the effective title of an extremely informative discussion led by Donald Capps, the Federation's Second Vice President, with the following participants: Fred Silver, representing St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center, Catholic Guild for the Blind, Boston; Dr. Jacob Freid, Executive Director of the Jewish Braille Institute of America, New York; Dr. Douglas MacFarland, Director of Virginia's State Division for the Visually Handicapped, and Kenneth Jernigan, Director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind.

The last of the group discussions, moderated by John Taylor, Chief of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Iowa Commission for the Blind, dealt with "Administration of Services for the Blind -- Goals

and Problems". Other participants in the stimulating session were Dr. Norman Yoder, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Council of the Blind; Julius Rothbein, Business Manager of the New York State Commission for the Blind, and Carl Barr of New Jersey's Commission for the Blind.

Reports

In a concise but thorough Presidential Report, Russell Kletzing reviewed the major events and administrative decisions undertaken by the Federation during the past year, with emphasis upon such matters as the national legislative program, fund raising, and assistance to organizations and individuals.

First Vice President Kenneth Jernigan, as Chairman, delivered the report of the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. The White Cane Report was presented by John Taylor, Chairman of the White Cane Week Committee. Highly informative and encouraging reports on legislative achievements during the year were presented by representatives of five of our state affiliates. They were: Marshall Tucker, South Carolina; James McGinnis, California; William Klontz, Iowa; Maxine Pugh, Nebraska; and Roger Smith, Alabama.

Banquet

More than 460 conventioners were in attendance at the gala banquet on the evening of July 4, ably presided over by Master of Ceremonies Perry Sundquist. The Newel Perry Award, presented annually by the Federation for distinguished contribution to the cause of the blind, went this year to Dr. Jacob Freid, Executive Director of the Jewish Braille Institute. In his speech of presentation, President Kletzing paid tribute to Dr. Freid's courageous championing of the Federation and the organized blind movement, together with his notable achievements as the director of a forward-looking agency and brilliant editor of the Jewish Braille Review.

The banquet address, a highlight of the evening and indeed of the entire convention, was delivered by Kenneth Jernigan, our First Vice President and the Director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind. Posing the forceful question, "Is blindness a dying -- or a living?", his speech dealt probingly with the contrast between two antagonistic philosophies governing programs and services for the blind: the custodial doctrine of resignation and dependency as against the affirmative creed of opportunity and equality which animates the National Federation.

A telegram of greetings and commendation to the convention from

President John F. Kennedy was read at the banquet. The text of the telegram follows:

"23rd Annual National Convention, National Federation of the Blind, Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia. I am pleased to send greetings to the 23rd annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind. It has long been demonstrated that blind persons, properly trained, can be among our most useful citizens. Full opportunity for self-support and economic security should be the goal of all who work in this field. None of our handicapped citizens should be denied the tangible benefits and personal satisfactions that flow from a productive way of life. Best wishes for a constructive and useful meeting.
John F. Kennedy."

A unique souvenir of the convention in the form of a replica of Philadelphia's famed Liberty Bell, courtesy of the host Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind, was given to all those present at the dinner.

Elections

Victor Johnson (Missouri) and Ray Dinsmore (Indiana) were elected to two-year terms on the Executive Committee, replacing Tom Moody (Texas) and Frank Lugiano (Pennsylvania). The convention also re-elected Anita O'Shea (Massachusetts) and Harold Reagan (Kentucky) for similar terms. Three new members were added to the full Board of Directors: Lyle Von Erichsen (Washington), Dr. Jacob Freid of New York City, and Hubert E. Smith, president of Ways and Means for the Blind of Georgia. Dr. Isabelle Grant (California) was re-elected in the same capacity.

Events and Activities

Prominent among the organized social activities of the Philadelphia convention was a broad variety of scenic excursions arranged for delegates on Friday afternoon, July 5 -- including trips to Independence National Historical Park; Brandywine Park and the John J. Tyler Arboretum; Overbrook School for the Blind, and Valley Forge.

Among the special meetings conducted in the course of the convention were separate gatherings of the blind merchants and blind teachers, the latter presided over by Dr. Isabelle Grant.

No coverage of convention activities would be complete without an expression of appreciation for the indispensable services performed by the ministers who delivered invocations at the outset of each of our

daily sessions. Among them were three distinguished blind persons: The Reverend Freddie Sproull, Grand Chaplain of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind; Father Harry J. Sutcliffe, Director of the Episcopal Guild for the Blind, and The Reverend Martin Luther Kirtz, Secretary of the Good Neighbor Club of Reading, Pennsylvania.

An especially great debt of gratitude is owed by all who benefited from the efficiently organized sessions to Kenneth Jernigan, our First Vice President who acted as General Convention Chairman, and to the leaders and members of the Pennsylvania Federation, notably its state and local hosts, Frank Lugiano and Frank Rennard.

Convention Sites

Washington, D.C. was selected by the delegates to be the scene of the 1965 convention of the National Federation. Phoenix, Arizona, chosen last year, was ratified as the choice for the 1964 convention.

Resolutions

The following resolutions (summarized here as to substance) were unanimously approved by the 1963 convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Copies of the full resolutions may be secured on request to: National Federation of the Blind, 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento 25, California.

63-00 -- urging the reappointment of John F. Mungovan as Executive Director of Services to the Blind for the State of Massachusetts.

63-01 -- calling for the passage of H.R. 5706, a bill to prohibit the imposition of residence requirements in state programs of aid to the blind, and commending Congressman Walter S. Baring for his introduction of the measure as well as his general support of Federation causes.

63-02 -- urging the enactment of H.R. 6245, the comprehensive public assistance bill introduced by Congressman Cecil R. King to improve aid to the blind by such means as abolishing residence requirements, relatives' responsibility and lien laws, and permitting separate administration of blind aid under title XVI.

63-03 -- expressing sincere appreciation to Congressman King for his consistent and effective efforts over the years on behalf of enlightened legislation affecting the interests of blind Americans.

63-04 -- condemning official interpretations by the Federal Department of H.E.W. of Title XVI provisions of the public welfare

amendments as a violation of the spirit of the social security program and a blow to the welfare needs of blind people in particular.

63-05 -- urging passage by Congress of S. 1268, generously introduced by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey in order to liberalize provisions of the disability insurance program for blind persons by reducing the qualifying quarters of coverage required for such benefits and basing entitlement where it belongs -- upon the existence and continuation of the physical disability of blindness.

63-06 -- urging the adoption of H.R. 1659, introduced by Congressman King to improve the welfare of the blind and reduce the burdens of dependency through allowing a taxpayer an additional federal income tax exemption when he provides support to a dependent who is blind.

63-07 -- expressing support for S. 12, introduced by Senator Jennings Randolph, establishing a presidentially-appointed appeals board for blind vending stand operators and granting them exclusive right to income from adjacent vending machines.

63-08 -- condemning and urging repeal of the "set-aside" provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act entailing charges against the income of vending stand operators which have the result of penalizing successful operators for the benefit of the unsuccessful.

63-09 -- endorsing and supporting S. 1576, a bill which would greatly increase livelihood opportunities for mentally and physically impaired children and adults by providing federal funds to assist in establishment of facilities, centers and training programs.

63-10 -- protesting and condemning the use of the means test in vocational rehabilitation for the disabled and urging all necessary steps to secure repeal of the "economic needs" provisions of the Act.

63-11 -- commending Chairman John W. Macy of the U.S. Civil Service Commission for his encouragement and assistance in improving employment opportunities for the handicapped in the federal Service.

63-12 -- urging that handicapped workers in sheltered workshops be given the federal help and protection which they are presently denied by decisions denying them the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act and excluding them from social and economic benefits available to other industrial workers.

63-13 -- condemning the underprivileged and discriminatory status

of sheltered shop workers, especially with regard to wages and working conditions, and calling upon the Federal Government to remedy these disgraceful conditions by all necessary actions.

63-14 -- voicing support for H.R. 3920 and S. 880, identical bills introduced by Congressman King and Senator Clinton Anderson, respectively, to provide health care for the aged, many of whom are blind, under the Social Security Act.

63-15 -- calling upon the Library of Congress to improve its present inadequate program of braille publications for the blind by (1) publishing in full all books selected, and (2) improving the method of selection by making available titles with a more valuable literary content and enduring importance.

63-17 -- urging support of White Cane Law principles and public safety campaigns by (1) action of NFB members individually and collectively, (2) proclamations by the governors of all states naming October 15 as White Cane Safety Day, and (3) wide public dissemination of this educational campaign by Lions Clubs and press media throughout the country.

JACOB FREID RECEIVES NEWEL PERRY AWARD

(Editor's note: The following award speech was delivered by Russell Kletzing, President of the National Federation of the Blind, at the Federation's convention banquet on July 4 in Philadelphia.)

The Newel Perry Award is presented annually by the National Federation of the Blind to one outstanding individual who has rendered distinguished service, above and beyond the call of duty, to the cause of the organized blind. I feel confident in declaring that that cause has no more distinguished servant anywhere in the land, no greater friend and no warmer advocate, than the man whom we honor tonight -- Dr. Jacob Freid.

Dr. Freid, who is known to us all as Executive Director of the Jewish Braille Institute of America, received his Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he was president of the Jewish Graduate Society. During World War II, he was head of the Moscow desk in the cable wire-

less division of the Office of War Information, and the United States State Department, the information liaison between Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Later he taught sociology at Rutgers University. For the past several years he has been chairman of the department of political science at the Senior College of the New School for Social Research, in New York City.

He is the author or editor of numerous published writings in the fields of social science and welfare, the latest of which is a comprehensive study of Jewish life and history entitled Jews in the Modern World. This monumental work, published in 1962, has already been hailed by scholars as a classic of social science and "a remarkable treasure-house of information and profoundly perceptive insight into the Jewish condition of our time."

Our national convention this year is, in a sense, a double anniversary. It is the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the National Federation. And it is also the fifth anniversary of a close and fruitful relationship -- an affair of the heart as well as of the head -- between the National Federation and Jacob Freid. It was at the Boston convention, in 1958, that the two first came together; and they have never since been parted. Dr. Freid has been much more than a guest at each of our conventions since then. He has been a very active participant, an inspired speaker, a wise confidant, and a steadfast friend. Above all he has thrown himself and his considerable energies into the thick of our struggles -- both without and within the Federation. When the Kennedy Bill, the Federation's right to organize measure, came before a committee of Congress for public hearings in 1959, and when we were in desperate need of supporting voices to counteract the phalanx of powerful agencies arrayed against us, it was Jacob Freid who braved the wrath of agency interests to fly down to Washington and speak forcefully on behalf of the right of blind people to organize on their own. This was no mere act of courtesy. It was an act of courage, determination and devotion, for Jacob Freid is himself an "agency man". These are the qualities, coupled with rare intelligence and insight, which he has consistently and conspicuously displayed in the direction of his own agency: The Jewish Braille Institute of America.

As the executive director of the Institute and the brilliant editor of its well-known journal, the Jewish Braille Review, Dr. Freid has long been in the forefront of those enlightened forces in the field of welfare who recognize their function as that of working with the blind rather than merely for them -- or against them. His attitude is part and parcel of a larger philosophy. He is a liberal in the true liberating sense: a fighter for every cause of social justice, however "lost" it may seem; a foe of prejudice and intolerance, wherever they rear their ugly

heads; a spokesman for the deprived against the depraved, and for the underdog against the overlord. In short, he is not just a friend of the blind: he is a friend to man.

On behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, and with deep personal pleasure, I present the Newel Perry Award for 1963 to Dr. Jacob Freid.

DOES BLINDNESS IMPROVE SENSE OF TOUCH?

Scientific findings which throw new light -- and credibility -- upon an old "myth" concerning blindness have been reported by University of California researchers investigating the effects of loss of sight upon brain growth. If valid, their studies would prove that the brain automatically compensates for blindness by improving the sense of touch.

Berkeley psychology professors David Krech and Mark Rosenzweig, along with biochemist Edward L. Bennett, have found in studies of rats that sections of the brain which register sensations from skin, muscles and joints grow after blindness occurs. Their researches provide the first known evidence that blindness can cause physical growth and chemical activity in the brain.

These findings, if corroborated by similar evidence drawn from human subjects, would tend to give strong -- and unexpected -- support to the old belief that blind persons develop "compensatory powers" as a counterweight to their loss of vision. This traditional notion, once held with conviction in many parts of the world, has been regarded increasingly over recent generations as an unfounded belief of superstitious origin completely without foundation in fact.

If the current laboratory discovery of the Berkeley scientists is proved true for human beings, the theory of compensatory "powers" -- at least with respect to the power of touch -- may be found to merit a sober second look. The university researchers are nationally reputable scholars who have long pioneered in linking brain chemistry with behavior and intelligence.

In their experiments, publicly announced July 25, rats were blinded under anesthesia at weaning and their brains subsequently examined after 80 days. It was reportedly found that the blinded rats, both

those living in isolation and others made to survive in a complex environment, had brain development to make up for their loss of sight. The brain growth was said to be automatic rather than acquired through learning.

Because the structure of a rat's brain is basically the same as that of other mammals -- including man -- the scientists have concluded that their discovery may have important implications and applications for research into human blindness.

SCIENCE FOR THE BLIND -- A SERVICE

Scientific reading materials and implements not available elsewhere to the sightless are provided by a unique service organization entitled "Science for the Blind", located in Haverford, Pennsylvania. A division of the Philadelphia Association for the Blind, the service was initiated in 1955 when the first issue of SCIENCE RECORDED was sent out to 50 interested blind persons across the country. Since then, Science for the Blind has increased the scope of its offerings to include four monthly periodicals, books, and special-interest tapes. Almost 250 listeners in the U.S. and abroad are said to be receiving a total of about 1,500 recorded tapes each month.

A representative project of the organization, begun last year, is the provision of second-hand calculators adapted to braille. The calculating machines, which are not known to be available from any other source, are purchasable for \$125, including transportation, within the United States.

Another item available to blind persons is an inexpensive tape player priced at \$54 (or \$52.50 prepaid). The low price of the machine, which does not record but plays only, has been made possible through cooperation of the Library of Congress, which donated the obsolete Model S Talking Book machine from which both case and loudspeaker are utilized.

Science for the Blind circulates, among other recorded material, scientific articles from such periodicals as POPULAR SCIENCE, THE NEW YORK TIMES, CONSUMER REPORTS, RADIO DIGEST, TIMELY TOPICS, and EXTRAS. The Children's Science Series, for readers aged 9-12, was completed less than a year ago and may be matched by further

sets if its popularity continues.

NEW COURSE FOR BLIND HOMEMAKERS

The Hadley School for the Blind, a tuition-free correspondence school in Winnetka, Illinois, announces the addition of a new course, HOME MANAGEMENT FOR THE BLIND HOME MAKER. In a specially prepared text compiled and edited by Mrs. Ruth Friedman of the school teaching staff, all aspects of homemaking are dealt with in a manner specifically intended for blind women.

The course is now available to any legally blind person and is offered in braille and printed form. The print version is available for legally blind persons who can read with the assistance of a visual aid, and is not offered to sighted individuals. The course will also be available in recorded form in the fall of 1963.

The textbook is said to contain 20 chapters with a set of review questions at the end of each chapter. The course is designed for personal enrichment and is not offered for academic credit. Matters to be covered include detailed information on the purchase and preparation of food, decorating, grooming, cleaning, entertaining, safety, health, sewing, and child care.

HOME MANAGEMENT FOR THE BLIND HOME MAKER will be taught by Mrs. C. Glenn Downing of the Hadley School teaching staff. Mrs. Downing is a blind housewife with four sighted children who will be able to call upon many of her own personal experiences as a blind homemaker to provide first-hand information for the students. Students interested in enrolling in HOME MANAGEMENT FOR THE BLIND HOME MAKER are to contact: Registrar, Hadley School for the Blind, 700 Elm Street, Winnetka, Illinois. Students should specify whether they wish to receive the braille or print version.

THE MAIL BOX

(Editor's note: The letter from Will Bowman of Los Angeles, which appeared in these columns last March, has apparently stirred a heated controversy over the relative merits and demerits of separate residence hotels for blind people. Without mentioning this journal, the editor of THE NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND felt obliged in the June issue to go on record in opposition to the idea. Now comes a correspondent from Phoenix, Arizona -- Sister Anna S. Krieter -- to join the issue against Mr. Bowman's proposal.)

"To the Editor:

"I enjoy THE BLIND AMERICAN very much. It contains a lot of good information. Both the Federation and the Brotherhood are doing a good work. I am a Missionary, and am praying for the Heavenly Father's blessings upon them and their work in behalf of us blind, and other handicapped folk. I sent for and received a dozen copies of the report on sheltered workshops, published in the March issue. This committee of the California Senate has done a very fine thing.

"Now, in regard to the letters written by Mr. Bowman of Los Angeles, the last of which also appeared in the March issue, I wish to state: I do not approve of a separate home or hotel for the blind. It is just some more segregation. The blind who do not have their own homes should be permitted to stay in the same hotels as the sighted. As a Missionary I sometimes take trips. In March and April of this year I was on a six-week trip to California, and stayed at hotels in four of the six towns I visited. In the two latter towns, I only remained a few hours each. I had no trouble getting rooms at hotels in San Bernardino, Bakersfield, Visalia, and Fresno. I do not stay at the expensive places. Of course, in my travels in various states I have had some difficulty in getting a room, but many of the places are very nice to me. The manager of the hotel at which I stayed in San Bernardino said some of her guests had been blind people, and she was aware of the fact that we all have different personalities just as do sighted people.

"As I am a vegetarian and eat the Health Way, and teach Health Reform as part of this Missionary message, I couldn't eat in a hotel dining room, as Mr. Bowman suggests. A separate hotel or community for the blind or the aged is not right. I am bitterly against such things.

"I have lived in the same hotel here for seven years, and am happy here. I hope to have a place of my own some day. May the legislation

for the blind prosper in Congress and in the various states. All state residential requirements for aid should be abolished..... Your little friend, "

Sister Anna S. Krieter

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Blind Father Saves Own Child. William Schmidt, a school-teacher of Temple City in Los Angeles County, was indoors at home in mid-July when he heard his wife's scream from outdoors. He raced downstairs and dived into the family swimming pool where his three-year-old daughter, Peggy Marie, already had sunk to the bottom. He groped until he ran out of breath, came up and then dived again. "At the deep end of the pool I felt her leg," he said later. He pulled the child up and revived her by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "You may be surprised a blind man can move so quickly," the 29-year-old Schmidt told newsmen, "but I know my way around this house. I helped to build those stairs and most of the rest of the house." (Adapted from a news story in the Oakland, California, TRIBUNE.)

* * * * *

Glasses for Pakistan. "Our drive for Glasses for Pakistan is more needed than ever," reports Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant. The National Federation of the Blind has sent almost 20,000 pairs of used glasses over the past three years -- in a campaign spearheaded by the California Council of the Blind to aid needy persons with defective vision. Dr. Grant notes she has made contact with Mr. Weaver, executive director of the CARE shipping office, who may be addressed at: CARE Warehouse, Delaware and Queen, Pier 38 South, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has stressed the need to wrap each pair of glasses separately in tissue paper to halt possible corrosion between metal and tortoise-shell or similar materials. Where possible, senders should avoid metal cases; leather or plastic cases are preferable, but none is required. Pack them tightly in cartons either medium or large sized.

"The need is greater than ever," writes Dr. Grant. "One member of the Lions Club in Lahore, a local physician, is offering to set aside one morning per week in his clinic for eye examinations and

the distribution of glasses, a much-needed service for those who cannot afford it. A member of the Rotary Club in Dacca has arranged to set up another center in that stricken area -- working, of course, through the CARE representative there."

* * * * *

Washington Blind Meet. "United we stand, divided we fall" was the theme of the 28th annual convention of the Washington State Association of the Blind in mid-June, according to an editorial in THE WHITE CANE, official magazine of the WSAB. The theme introduced by Associate President O. E. Flory in his keynote address, and sustained through a hard-working three-day meeting involving reports from affiliated associations, progress reports from committee chairman, and "definite progressive plans for the future." Editor Helen B. Anthony expressed particular thanks to Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind, who "gave a masterly address from braille as the featured speaker" at the convention banquet, and to Lyle Von Ericksen, WSAB vice-president, who presided at the dinner.

* * * * *

Allan Sherman Passes. Allan W. Sherman, Executive Director of the New York Lighthouse for the Blind and long-time Director of The Cleveland Society for the Blind, died in Stamford, Connecticut, on March 28. He was also an active official of the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

* * * * *

Massachusettsan Cited. Mrs. Frederick L. Churchill, of Winchester, Massachusetts, was recently named a semi-finalist in the Lane Bryant Annual Awards competition and has been honored with a citation in recognition of outstanding community service. She was nominated for the national service award by Francis B. Ierardi, founder of the National Braille Press, Inc.

* * * * *

Dr. Freid Finishes Story. Many of those who attended the NFB's rousing convention in Philadelphia will remember their regret when Dr. Jacob Freid, taking part in a panel discussion, was cut off by the clock in the midst of what promised to be not only a good yarn but a pointed one. Among those impatient to hear the ending was Dr. Isabelle Grant, who fired off a letter after the convention demanding particulars. Here is Dr. Freid's reply:

"Concerning the story that I didn't have time to tell, here it is: Groups should not make false stereotypes and generalizations about themselves and their own members. Mr. Isaac was asked what he thought about Mr. Levy. His answer was that Levy was a scoundrel, an uncultured bore, a nincompoop and a conniver. He was asked about Mr. Cohen -- 'Cohen is a thief, a scoundrel who would steal from his own mother.' 'And what about the Jews?', he was asked. 'The Jews are the salt of the earth; there is no finer people anywhere.' A sighted man was asked what he thought about Dr. tenBroek ... he answered, 'An intellectual genius, a natural leader of man, a champion of the under-privileged and a brilliant fighter for justice and equal opportunity for the blind.' He was then asked what he thought about Russell Kletzing. 'An incisive intellect, a distinguished leader, a fine legal mind and a champion of justice and equal opportunity for the blind.' 'Then what do you think of the blind?' 'A shiftless group of mendicants, maligners and welfare clients eager for a hand-out.'"

* * * * *

Tele-Braille System Opened. The world's first Tele-Braille switchboard system, designed for blind operators, was inaugurated recently in Aberdeen, South Dakota, with a phone call from Attorney General Robert Kennedy in Washington to Mayor Cliff Hurlburt. The braille switchboard, which is expected to open new job opportunities for the sightless, was opened in the municipal building as the central switchboard system for city offices.

* * * * *

Making Dolls No Hobby. A toy doll with a clock face, which blind or sighted children can play with and learn to tell time, may be the beginning of a successful business for Fred Funk, blind resident of Tampa, Florida, according to a feature story in the Tampa MORNING TRIBUNE. The local Lions Club has given him his first order, and Goodwill Industries has bid on dressing the dolls. "I hope I can hire handicapped people to paint dip, sand and round, and jigsaw the dolls," said Funk. "If the project works, it will put other people to work, too."

* * * * *

Tenth Anniversary for H.E.W. The Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare recently took official note of its tenth anniversary in the business of "helping people to help themselves." Reviewing the past decade, Secretary Anthony J. Celebrezze noted that the Department's aim for the next ten years is "to make available to all citizens full opportunities for the development of their talents and

abilities. These are our most precious resources -- our hope for the future."

* * * * *

"Enchanted Hills" Youth Camp. A camp for blind children which is unique in the American West -- Enchanted Hills, in California's Napa Valley -- was the subject of a recent feature story in P.G. & E. PROGRESS, monthly publication of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Established in 1947, the 32-acre recreation center draws campers from seven Western states and Texas. Summer terms are divided to accommodate three age groups. Two 14-day sessions for children 7 through 11, followed by a three-week term for teenagers 12 through 17, accommodate 150 youngsters a year, according to the journal. Then the summer ends with a two-week vacation period for 60 blind adults. The programs are administered by the San Francisco Lighthouse for the Blind.

* * * * *

Blind Golfers' Tourney. The 1963 United States Blind Golfers' Tournament is scheduled for September 5, 6 and 7 at the Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains, New York. The event is sponsored by the New York Lighthouse and is under the chairmanship of Harry H. Gordon of White Plains.

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THE BLIND AMERICAN

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NEVADA LAW EXEMPTS SPOUSE INCOME

A new state law exempting \$200 of earned income by the spouse of a blind aid recipient -- and thereby easing the onerous support responsibility of working spouses -- has been passed by the Nevada Legislature as the climax of a sustained campaign by the Nevada Federation of the Blind.

The statute, passed as an amendment to the Nevada Aid to Blind Act, reads officially as follows: "For the purpose of encouraging the spouse of a recipient of aid [to the blind] to retain or seek employment in order to be self-supporting and to avoid becoming a recipient of public aid, the net earnings of such spouse not in excess of \$200 per month, after deduction for expenses incurred in connection with such earnings and for the support of any minors dependent upon such spouse, any payments of any indebtedness incurred for medical care or other necessities of life, shall not be considered community property. Where such spouse is engaged in seasonal employment, the estimated annual earnings shall be prorated on a monthly basis."

The successful campaign of Nevada's organized blind for the "spouse-exemption" law dates back to 1960, when the state's Attorney General issued an adverse opinion forcing the Nevada Welfare Department to reverse a long-standing policy. Prior to that date, spouses were ruled to be included within provisions of the state law that no relative of a blind-aid recipient could be held liable for contributions to his support. The result of the Attorney General's edict was that a spouse's need must be measured on the same budget basis as that of the recipient, and any income on his or her part in excess of the rigid public assistance standard had to be considered as income to the blind recipient.

The effect of this "harsh policy," as the Nevada Federation pointed out last year in a convention resolution, was to "deprive the working spouse of a recipient of aid to the blind of all incentive to continue to be fully self-supporting so that he or she can fully meet his or her own needs and, if possible, help meet the needs of the blind spouse."

The Federation also declared that "if the self-supporting spouse of a blind recipient continues to be severely penalized by having his needs reduced to the level of a recipient of public assistance, it will inevitably tend to disrupt marriages between blind and sighted persons and strongly discourage such unions, to the disadvantage of all concerned."

Following the negative ruling of the Attorney General, the organized blind of Nevada went to the State Welfare Department for

administrative action to modify these drastic effects. Their petitions were turned aside with the bland response that nothing could be done. At that point the state Federation turned to the Legislature, seeking an amendment to the aid law which would "specifically provide that all of the needs of a spouse of a recipient of aid to the blind must be fully met before the balance of any earnings of such spouse can be considered or construed as income to the blind recipient."

The victorious result of this campaign for legislative redress of grievance, waged by the blind federationists of Nevada, provides a mark for other states to shoot at. And it proves once again that, even in the state of Reno and Las Vegas, self-organization by the blind is no gamble-- but a sure bet.

OPERATION PAKISTAN

By Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant

(Editor's note: Dr. Grant, retired Los Angeles school teacher and administrator, is a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind. She returned recently from the second of two year-long sojourns in Pakistan, where she worked intensively on educational problems of the blind. For a biographical sketch of Dr. Grant, see THE BLIND AMERICAN, June 1963.)

The indomitable, selfless and imaginative spirit which has always characterized the National Federation of the Blind in these 23 years of its existence was at its best on the morning of Saturday, July 6, 1963 -- the fourth day of the annual convention held this year in Philadelphia -- when a motion was made by Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, President Emeritus, that the organized blind of the Federation lend their support (both moral and substantial) to helping their fellow blind in far-flung countries overseas, where conditions for blind persons are still culturally very inadequate.

The response was dynamic. A motion to set up a fund within the Federation to provide equipment, materials and other assistance to the blind in Pakistan was adopted unanimously. In a paper read to the convention the previous day, I had made known some of the conditions which prevail in that area of the world, where the majority of blind adults are still in the ranks of the underprivileged, the unfortunate, the destitute,

the defeated. Blind children there are considered to be uneducable, lacking in intelligence, fit only as potential beggars earning a pittance rather than a livelihood for themselves and their families. Of an estimated 65,000 blind children of school age throughout the country, fewer than 180 are in any kind of educational institution; and the few who are there are for the most part given vocational education in the form of chair caning and basketry -- at which trades even the most expert cannot make a living.

But the people of Pakistan are beginning to see in their blind children "just children," not outcasts. They are beginning to include them in their families, instead of hiding them even from the view of their closest relatives and friends. Pakistani people are beginning to see that their blind children can be educated in special day classes for blind children in the regular schools, with the aid of a specially trained teacher -- at no other expense than the salary of that teacher.

The old idea that blind children had to be removed from their homes and sent to residential schools is fast giving way to the new idea that children who do not see can be educated alongside those who do see. Pakistani people, by and large, do not want to send their children away from home. The tradition has been to keep the child at home without providing him with the education the other members of the family may be receiving. In the villages where the incidence of blindness is highest, the blind child has only two choices: to beg in the streets, or to stay at home. The parents of blind children themselves have no other answer.

Yet over and against this discouraging picture, a distinct gleam of hope is shining through. Young blind people are waking to the fact that they can, and want to, work like their fellow citizens. With astonishing frequency, I have been approached by blind boys of twelve years and more for requests to learn to read and write. The Pakistani Association of the Blind -- a vital, growing organization of blind persons -- started last winter to coach young blind boys in reading Urdu, even in learning a little English -- as well as in the rudiments of arithmetic and (after the acquisition of a second-hand typewriter) in typing, the medium by which blind persons communicate in writing with the sighted. Typewriters are scarce and expensive in countries like Pakistan. They are practically the monopoly of the business houses, rather than the possession of private individuals or of schools.

It is noteworthy that blind boys are taking the lead in this break with tradition. Blind girls will follow, but slowly, because of the present status of women in public. There need be no barrier, however, to the blind girl receiving education during her school-age years. The transformation of the image of blindness in these developing countries is a slow

process, but already the start towards the change is well-grounded and secure. Pakistani people have made it so themselves. Two fundamental forces are at work effecting the change: education of the youthful blind, and the movement among blind people themselves for self-determination, self-realization, and opportunity.

But there are no materials to assist blind children when we do bring them to school. There are no slates, styluses, braille paper, braille machines, and, most important of all, braille textbooks. To provide these basic tools of education, the National Federation of the Blind has set up a substantial equipment fund for the purchase of materials to be sent where they are needed most and where they can be put to immediate use.

Several of the NFB's state affiliates are working on individual projects at present. Iowa has granted a scholarship to a teacher attending the Seminar on the Education of Blind Youth in Pakistan. Colorado is sending materials to a small but progressive blind school in that country. Virginia has provided a bicycle for a village teacher to assist in the instruction of two blind children. Distances there are great, transportation inadequate, and teachers' salaries insufficient for anything beyond bare living expenses.

The NFB's Equipment Fund is the result of state pledges and individual donations. But, more than that, it is a declaration of intention by the organized blind to extend a helping hand to their fellow blind abroad -- not as charity, not as largesse, but rather to help themselves, to make the pulling-up of their own bootstraps just a little easier.

Blind people are on the march throughout the world; and, like the dawn, you cannot hold them back.

CENSORSHIP OF TALKING BOOKS?

The issue of censorship is of vital importance to all free men. But it has special, and extraordinary, significance for blind readers whose principal access to literature, in the form of recordings and braille publications, is everywhere governed by boards of selection and review -- and governed also by custodial and protective attitudes which easily become translated into arbitrary standards of what is "good for the blind."

For this reason it is heartening to note the editorial response of the BVA BULLETIN, an official publication of the Blinded Veterans Association, to a letter from a member calling for the ban of two non-fiction works recently recorded on Talking Books. The correspondent asserted that the two books -- May Man Prevail, by Erich Fromm, and The Precarious Vision, by Peter L. Berger -- were to his way of thinking "offensive and subversive." And he went on to label the volumes "pure communist propaganda" which therefore "should not be distributed through the U. S. mail at the expense of the government."

In reply, BULLETIN Editor Jack Feldman (writing in the June-July-August issue) observed that "Mr. Murphy has the right to express his views as to the propriety of these publications." But he added that the letter writer "has not the right to impose his views on others by threatening to prevent the two books from being distributed."

"Whether Mr. Murphy is aware of it or not," the editor wrote, "he has placed himself in the untenable position of unofficial censor. By applying a label to these publications and, in effect, threatening their removal from the library shelf, he is attempting to deny access to these books."

The BVA editorial pointed out that Talking Books require the same protection given books for the general public against over-zealous efforts to limit the range of their thought and expression: "They are the means by which the blind seek information and pleasure and must represent a cross section of titles available to the sighted." Recalling the ancient and continuing struggle between the tolerant spirit of liberty and the intolerant frenzies of censorship, Editor Feldman cited numerous attempts over the centuries to suppress critical or controversial writings -- including those of Dante, Galileo and Benjamin Franklin -- which have since become venerated as classics. And he reminded his readers that "the greatest triumph of the censor came in May 1933 when 25,000 books by Jewish authors were burned in a giant bonfire at the University of Berlin."

It may be added that, while the author of The Precarious Vision is not known to us, the author of May Man Prevail is well-known indeed. Dr. Erich Fromm, one of America's most prominent authorities on psychoanalysis and social psychology, is the author of (among other books) Escape from Freedom -- a classic study of totalitarianism in politics and personality structure, as thoroughly devastating in its indictment of communism as of Nazi totalitarianism. His latest book, May Man Prevail, is a fervent plea for peace and sanity in the relations between nations. As such it may be expected to offend all those who regard these ideals as subversive.

More than most groups of Americans, the blind can ill afford any increase in the numbers of individuals eager to supervise and control their reading matter. In the nature of things, if only for economic and technical reasons, the literature available to blind readers must always be selective; and where there is the power of selection there is the temptation to censorship. One of the more subtle forms which this has taken in the past, on the part of librarians and recording agencies for the blind, has been the avoidance of the intellectual, the thoughtful and the "difficult" -- in favor of the conventional, the popular, and (in a word) the simple. Blind persons desperately searching for brailled or recorded literature which may bring them into genuine contact with important issues and great ideas have sometimes suspected the existence of a tacit agreement among their benefactors to keep them blissfully in ignorance of all the significant currents of thought and opinion which occupy the intellectual world of those possessing sight.

The Blinded Veterans Association, and the editor of its BULLETIN, deserve to be commended for their forthright and courageous stand against censorship. But it is not enough to extend felicitations. Blind Americans can best support that position by taking action on their own, individually and collectively, to stiffen the resolve of the Division for the Blind of the Library of Congress never to make use of that deadliest weapon of the enemies of freedom: the censor's pencil.

The following resolution, adopted unanimously by the 1963 convention of the National Federation of the Blind, points the general direction which such efforts should take:

"WHEREAS, the Library of Congress publishes for the blind a small fraction of the number of titles published each year in print; and

"WHEREAS, those titles published for the blind are frequently condensed and as a result weakened in literary content; and

"WHEREAS, the selection of those titles to be published gives preference to the trivial and minor works; and

"WHEREAS, these practices result in an impoverishment of materials available to the blind for reading;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this 6th day of July, 1963, that this Federation strongly urges that the Library of Congress put an end to these various and unfortunate practices by:
1) publishing in full all books selected for publication, and 2) improving

the method of selection by making available titles with a more valuable literary content and otherwise of more enduring importance."

LOS ANGELES SHOP WORKERS UNIONIZE

Twenty-six of the 90 employees of the Los Angeles Workshop for the Blind have joined the AFL-CIO State Employees Union in a voluntary decision taken June 27, according to a report in the California Council of the Blind BULLETIN. "This figure is not startling," the journal added. "There will be more signing up. What is significant is that the State Employees Union has accepted blind people as people -- people who are a normal and average segment of the general public."

The Los Angeles workers' decision is also significant as a sequel to the similar action carried out on a larger scale last spring by blind workers of the Berkeley workshop of California Industries for the Blind. (See article in THE BLIND AMERICAN, May 1963.) The unionizing of the Berkeley shop workers was followed by management reprisals in the form of mass layoffs and veiled threats -- which in turn resulted in a successful strike for reinstatement and increased wages.

One of the leaders of the Berkeley shop workers, as quoted by the COUNCIL BULLETIN, has pinpointed the importance of the strike and its aftermath. "At long last, we have a very effective instrumentality in our union for dealing with [shop management]. As a result of our action, effective machinery is now in effect for correcting bad situations in all three of the workshops for the blind in this state. Our fellow workers in the other two shops can join our same AFL-CIO union with full confidence that their grievances will be accorded consideration by responsible authorities in Sacramento, and we have shattered the spurious alibi of the Department of Education to justify starvation wage rates and inept management."

The right of employees of California public agencies to organize and to deal with their employing agencies through their unions has been recognized by the Legislature through a recent amendment to the Government Code. Moreover, as blind persons the sheltered shop workers' right to organize is further protected by California's right-to-organize statute, enacted after a vigorous campaign by the California Council paralleling the Federal action sought by the National Federation of the Blind.

PROSPECTS AND FEARS OF BLIND SHOP WORKERS

By Tom Joe

(Editor's note: Mr. Joe, an active member of the California Council of the Blind, recently served a legislative internship with State Assemblyman Philip Burton. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, where he also earned a master's degree in political science. His article, addressed specifically to workers in California's sheltered shops, is presented here as of general interest and importance to blind workshop employees in all states.)

The first need of the organized employees of California Industries for the Blind is to define themselves forcefully and explicitly as workers. This is necessary although many of these employees have no specific skills and most of them do not work a full 40 hours per week. These facts are often used to justify the low pay and lack of rights of these employees. Workshop managers argue that their employees are not workers because "They can't do anything very productive and besides, they don't work full time. We don't pressure them; they can come in one day and stay home the next."

But from the employees' point of view, the lack of challenge of workshop production is a detriment and not a benefit. They want skilled training and they want full-time work. They would admit that folding pillow-slips is not very productive work, and they would be happy to do something more difficult, if it were available. As for their irregular work week, one of the most common complaints among shop workers is the dearth of steady work. Many times they come to the shop in the morning to sit around and wait for work that never comes in. Since they are usually paid on a piece rate, there is continual strife over the amount of work allocated to each person. The employees of C.I.B. have a great need to see themselves as workers -- workers organized together for mutual benefit.

It is important that C.I.B. employees establish themselves as workers now because of a growing tendency, throughout the state and the nation, to view workshops as places of training for handicapped persons. The literature on the subject stresses that workshops are half-way houses, helping disabled persons bridge the gap between uselessness and normal productivity. The short-term and transitional character of workshop activity is stressed. The disabled person theoretically stays at the shop only long enough to regain his self-confidence and to develop a useful skill. Then he goes out into the competitive market place.

"Occupational therapy," "work conditioning," "psychological adjustment," -- these are the terms used to describe the workshop experience. But the handicapped worker soon realizes that these words are meaningless. He does not receive any training which would enable him to hold an outside job, for what ordinary employer could afford to have pillowcases folded at the minimum wage? The employer contracts out such duties to workshops, a procedure which saves him money and allows him to "do something for the handicapped."

The shop worker further realizes that even if he were to receive skilled training (which he does not) he would probably find himself barred from competitive employment by prevailing social attitudes. Thus, while the philosophy of workshops as training grounds is admirable, the handicapped employees realistically anticipates spending the rest of his working life in the confines of the sheltered shop. Most shop workers, including those at C.I.B., have been there for many years and have no hope of leaving.

Given the reality that sheltered shops are places of work and not temporary places of training and psychological adjustment, the task is to establish proper working conditions, including payment of the minimum wage. It is interesting to note that the state has run the California Industries for the Blind shops at an overall financial loss for the last ten years. This has usually been blamed on the inefficiency of the workers, rather than on inability of management to obtain profitable contracts or to organize production effectively. However, it should be pointed out that most C.I.B. employees are also recipients of Blind Aid. The liberal provisions of Blind Aid law require the deduction from the grant of no net earnings below \$85 per month and only half of net earnings above \$85. This has served as an incentive to recipients to earn but also has acted as a deterrent to the establishment of standard wages in the shops. Management, and shopworkers too, tend to view Blind Aid as supplementary payment.

The long term goal should be to reorganize the shops into regular production centers with proper equipment, a 40-hour week, skilled training for new employees, efficient management and decent wages. The result of such a reorganization would probably be to make the workshop a self-sufficient enterprise and to diminish the workers' dependence on public assistance. If the managers and directors of workshops were able or willing to make those changes, they would have done so long ago to the benefit of everyone. Obviously, they haven't.

Too long have the workers and the industry paid the terrible price of a disorganized, unorganized work force totally dependent on the good

will of others. Through your union you, and you alone, must exert organized leadership to break out of the strait jacket where "experts" tell you and public officials that substandard wages and insecurity will help to make you more secure. Only you, through your union, can tell the story which must be told. No one else can; no one else will.

The immediate problem is to prevent public officials and legislators from becoming confused by the concept of workshops as rehabilitation centers. The intent here is not to undermine legitimate programs. On the contrary, it must be admitted that one of the most significant steps in meeting the needs of handicapped persons was the federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act which led to the establishment of rehabilitation programs in all the states. But there is a two-fold danger in trying to achieve rehabilitation goals in sheltered shops. First, true rehabilitation is thwarted since the integration of employees into normal life is not achieved. Second, "rehabilitation" is used as an excuse for substandard conditions in the shops. Neither rehabilitation nor decent working conditions are achieved.

But if the shops provide normal working conditions without any pretense of rehabilitation, there is probably greater likelihood that employees will, in fact, become rehabilitated than under present circumstances. And even if chances for competitive jobs are not increased by the employees' exposure to more normal working conditions within the shops, at least their lives will not be wasted in the hopelessness experienced in performing dreary tasks at substandard wages.

A "NEW OUTLOOK" (?) ON SHELTERED SHOPS

By Floyd W. Matson

Although there have been many and diverse definitions of the character of sheltered workshops and the role of shop workers, most if not all of them may be reduced without violence to two general perspectives -- that of management and that of the workers. The extent to which these perspectives differ from one another may be graphically shown by contrasting the two articles immediately preceding this one with an article published in the June, 1963, issue of THE NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND.

The latter essay, entitled "The Sheltered Workshop of the 1960's," is the work of Dr. Herbert Rusalem, director of professional training and research at the Industrial Home for the Blind (a famous sheltered workshop) in Brooklyn. Dr. Rusalem's paper, originally delivered before a national rehabilitation conference in 1961, undertakes to define the changing historical character of the sheltered workshop and to outline its likely future course.

His article is commendable alike for its professional sophistication and refreshing candor. For the most part, a spade is called a spade and a workbench a workbench. Unfortunately, the candor is not quite complete: a shop worker is not called a shop worker (he is a "client"), and a workshop is called -- nearly everything else.

"The many-headed workshop of 1961," Dr. Rusalem begins, "is a far cry from the first formal workshop" which was set up in the United States in 1840, for the purpose strictly of employment. For example, "in 1840 there were no psychologists and social workers scurrying down the aisles, there were no attempts to construct a rational philosophy to justify its existence . . ." True enough; but are those things clear-cut indicators of progress? Many blind shop workers would regard it as more progressive to receive fewer such services and less such rationalization -- if they could be traded for better wages and conditions of work.

The single and simple economic purpose of the early workshop has been steadily replaced by a battery of subtle-sounding medical and technical objectives, as the NEW OUTLOOK article demonstrates. Dr. Rusalem notes that by 1958 an official report of the combined national workshop authorities "revealed that the major functions of the sheltered workshop had swelled from one to eight, with the one concerning the provision of gainful employment being located far down toward the bottom of the list."

It is instructive to cite some of the purposes which that management report considered superior to the provision of gainful employment. They include: "To provide a laboratory for vocational diagnosis and evaluation . . . To provide a setting for a sustained focus on the total needs of the individual especially for motivation, vocational exploration, and tryout. To provide a controlled environment with a graduated amount of shelter between physical restoration and vocational rehabilitation."

To his credit, Dr. Rusalem is not unaware of the increasing disproportion between the emphasis upon income-producing work and the proliferation of noneconomic services in the strange career of the sheltered shop. "Over the past century and a quarter," he points out, "as rehabilitation concepts took hold, the purpose of providing gainful employment for those who have no other placement opportunities gradually slipped

toward the bottom of the list. In its place, other more glamorous (sic) purposes took precedence and commanded disproportionate professional time, research, effort, and money."

Yet nowhere in his lengthy article, for all its lists of problems and needs facing the workshop of the future, is there recognition of the overriding need of shop workers themselves to be regarded fully and normally as workers -- and therefore to receive not only the right to organize, to be represented and consulted, but also to realize the dignity and independence which that right brings with it.

It is sadly ironic that among the urgent needs which this NEW OUTLOOK article does call attention to is "a need for upgrading workshop jobs in salary and status so as to compete with the blandishments of schools, social agencies, and industry." Note that the workshop jobs which the author has in mind are not the jobs of the disabled workers but the jobs of management staff. His concern for the welfare of these unfortunate people is entirely laudable; but his disregard for the welfare of the sheltered workers is shocking.

The shop workers are not, however, totally forgotten. After several pages devoted to the specialized and developing functions of supervision and servicing, the article closes with this remarkable pronouncement: "In such planning, we ought to turn to the consumer -- the disabled workshop client -- and procure from him his concept of the workshop of the 1960's. Well, we have done just that. Here is the product of our research."

Well, sirs -- it might be said in answer to this writer and to the NEW OUTLOOK -- with all respect, you have done just the opposite of that. The one thing you have carefully not done is to turn to the disabled workshop client and procure from him his concept of the workshop of the 1960's. But there is still time to do so, and there is no mystery about it. That concept is now being hammered out in the workshops of Berkeley and Los Angeles, of Cleveland and of Seattle, and of increasing numbers of other cities and states. That concept is the outgrowth of the prospects and fears of blind shop workers, forthrightly discussed above by Tom Joe. That concept is the heart of the matter under analysis by Dr. Jacobus tenBroek in his report, "Blind Shop Workers: What Are They?" which appeared in these pages last June. That concept is far from being the product of your research; it is the product of a very different kind of search. It is the outcome of a revolution of rising expectations and rising discontent on the part of a long-custodialized and underdeveloped group no longer satisfied with the rhetoric of social service and the untouchable status of sheltered dependency.

N. F. B. CONVENTION TAPES AVAILABLE

Tape recordings of the events of the 1963 convention of the National Federation of the Blind are now available for purchase by members and friends of the organization, according to an announcement by Franklin VanVliet, Federation treasurer, who has arranged for the tape reproduction of the sessions.

Price for the full recorded convention, a seven-reel set, is \$22.75. A few individual tapes, covering such events as the convention banquet and the address by Civil Service Commission Chief John W. Macy, are also available at \$2.00 per tape. Requests for further information, and orders for the tapes, should be addressed to Mr. VanVliet, R.F.D. No. 7, Penacook, New Hampshire.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN CIVIL SERVICE

"Within the last few years, a highly significant change in attitude has taken place in the Federal civil service -- a change from allowing equal opportunity to insisting upon it."

With these words, the Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission, John W. Macy, Jr., set the tone for a concretely informative and encouraging address before the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Philadelphia, July 6. Directly confronting the issue of "Equal Employment Opportunity Under the Merit System," Chairman Macy told his audience of 600 blind delegates that "one of our most urgent concerns at present is a vigorous effort to wipe out all forms of unfair discrimination in employment and advancement throughout the Federal service."

The present active campaign to erase discrimination against handicapped persons and minority groups is a relatively recent development, Macy admitted. Despite formal acceptance of the principle of equality in the Civil Service Act, "for a great many years equality of opportunity was more passive than active with respect to some groups of citizens . . . some of these people were actually prevented from taking civil service examinations -- for example, by arbitrary age limits, restriction of many positions to men only, or unrealistic physical ability requirements.

"Even where there were no such limitations -- and I am glad to say that all of them have now been removed -- there was not much in the way of positive effort to encourage or assist applicants to compete under adverse circumstances, or to assure that they received really fair consideration for employment after they qualified in competition," he said.

Among the reforms carried out under the new Federal Administration, according to the Commission chairman, are specific modifications of standard competitive tests to meet cases in which physical disabilities have penalized or disallowed a competitor from demonstrating his real competence at a particular job.

"A very simple example is the typing test: all competitors are rated on the same scale of speed and accuracy, but blind competitors are given dictating-machine records to type from in place of printed sheets of paper," Macy pointed out.

Another ingenious change has been made on a test for accuracy requiring the competitor to match a little measuring gauge, printed on a card, with rectangles of various sizes printed on sheets of paper. "For this test the blind competitor is given a sheet of heavy plastic with raised shapes on it, and a small metal bar. He matches the bar with the raised figures, and tells the examiner which ones are the same size."

In yet another test, used in certain very difficult examinations, conditions have been equalized for blind test-takers in a similar manner. The test is called "abstract reasoning," and requires the regular competitor to examine matched groups of small abstract figures on a printed page, identifying what makes them alike and what makes them different, Chairman Macy said. "The figures are things like circles with tangents in different positions, arcs of circles with dots inside or outside the curve, pairs of lines that touch and don't touch, and so on. We have had these figures embossed, in a much larger size, on heavy mats similar to the stereotypes used by newspapers. The blind competitor reads them with his fingers and dictates his answers to the examiner."

The civil service chief declared that "perhaps the most important of all our test modifications for the blind" is the simple fact that "in every case there is one competitor and one examiner." While sighted competitors are examined in groups, with a single examiner for all, every blind competitor has an examiner all to himself, he pointed out.

The last and most effective phase of the Civil Service Commission's program for hiring the handicapped was said to be the adoption of the "Coordinator" system, which permits greater attention to the problem of matching men and jobs. Under this plan the manager of a federal estab-

listment names a highly ranked employee to act as Coordinator for employment of the physically handicapped, Chairman Macy noted. Operating as a middleman between the handicapped applicant and the possible job, it is the Coordinator's "responsibility to know what jobs in his agency can be performed efficiently by persons with certain kinds of handicaps, to convince supervisors of the merits of hiring the handicapped, and to see to it that a handicapped applicant who is qualified for a job really gets full and fair consideration."

The rising success of the Coordinator system was graphically shown through statistics demonstrating that "in five years we more than tripled the percentage of handicapped persons hired (in the federal service), and the record is still improving." The key to the gain in job placement was seen by Chairman Macy to lie in the much greater personal attention, as well as perseverance, now given to each case by the Coordinator.

Stressing that "we have enough evidence to convince almost anyone of what the handicapped can do when given a fair opportunity," he pointed to the case of Miss Thelma Quesenberry, a telephone switchboard operator in the Department of Commerce, who had partial vision since childhood and has been totally blind since 1955. "This is a particularly interesting case in that it is a 'first' -- the first blind switchboard operator employed by the Federal Government under civil service. Although the Civil Service Commission approved the employment of blind switchboard operators more than four years ago, none was appointed until early this year. There will undoubtedly be many more appointments as more people learn to use the special switchboard," he asserted.

REPORT ON BLIND TUNERS' SEMINAR

By Stanley Oliver

(Editor's note: Mr. Oliver is a member of the board of the Michigan Council of the Blind and editor of its magazine, THE EYE-OPENER. He is also a member of the executive committee of the National Federation of the Blind. An advance report by Mr. Oliver on the Michigan seminar for blind piano tuners appeared in our April, 1963, issue.)

The campus of the Michigan School for the Blind was the site last June of a highly successful five-day seminar for active blind piano

servicemen, some 37 of whom were on hand. In the group were six instructors from schools for the blind and one member of the distaff side -- Miss Lenor McNish of Akron, Ohio. Ten states and two Canadian provinces were represented. The busy schedule of events listed ten workshops and a number of panel discussions and program talks.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Detroit and Lansing chapters of the Piano Technicians Guild, the Michigan Council of the Blind, and the Michigan Association of Workers for the Blind. It came into existence as an outgrowth of activity from the national PTG committee on Problems and Affairs of the Visually Handicapped. This committee is comprised of Ignatius Chang, Hawaii; Earl Schwab, Los Angeles; Earl Pollard, national executive secretary of the PTG, and this writer. All members of the committee are blind and active in PTG organizational work.

Among the instructional staff were Sid Durfee of the Perkins Institute; Everett Oddie, editor of the BRAILLE PIANO TECHNICIAN; Tom Porter, head technician for the Baldwin Company of Chicago. Of considerable value was the participation of such notable sighted PTG officers as Irwin Otto, New York, who conducted a two-day session in major rebuilding, and George Lockhart, former national president, whose keen mind and long experience was an invaluable adjunct to the diversified activities.

Mr. E. Q. Miller, of the Adult Education Department of Wayne State University, expounded at length on a variety of problems common to small business, with special reference to blind tuners. Mr. Miller has worked the past several years with a broad cross-section of adults, helping them bring technical and associated skills into the operation of small business enterprises. His many carefully considered ideas brought on a lively floor discussion.

A large number of written evaluations from those participating in the five-day program have been received, and it seems obvious to the committee which organized the seminar that repetition on a geographically rotating basis, perhaps every two years, would receive warm approval from blind tuners. Visually handicapped tuners form perhaps ten percent of the total in the field. The better technicians are almost invariably active members of the PTG, an alert and highly effective professional society.

NEVADA LEADERS WIN CITIZEN AWARDS

Two leaders of Nevada's organized blind movement -- Mrs. Audrey Bascom and K. O. Knudson -- have been named as recipients of the "Outstanding Citizen" Award of the Nevada Savings and Loan Association. Knudson received the citation and accompanying plaque in June and Mrs. Bascom the following month.

Mrs. Bascom, president of the Nevada Federation of the Blind and also president of the Southern Nevada Sightless, is a board member of the National Federation of the Blind. She has been director of the blind center in Las Vegas since 1954, where she has devoted most of her time to developing the center as a rehabilitation facility and training agency for blind people. (Audrey was the subject of a biographical article in the May, 1963, issue of THE BLIND AMERICAN, as part of our series entitled "Meet the Blind Who Lead the Blind.")

Knudson, long an active leader in the Nevada Federation and the Southern Nevada Sightless, is a retired Las Vegas school administrator who served for 37 years as a school principal and director of the district's audio-visual program. A past grand master of the Masonic Lodge for the State of Nevada, he has been a recipient of the Variety Heart Award (1957), the Four Chaplains Award (1956), and was designated a Distinguished Nevadan by the University of Nevada in 1962. Knudson is also an honorary life member of the Las Vegas Shrine Club and an active member of the Nevada Historical Society, the Elks and the Oddfellows lodges in Las Vegas.

GUIDE DOGS NOT FOR CHILDREN

Representatives of eleven agencies for the blind -- among them three guide-dog training institutes -- have distributed a joint statement firmly opposing the placing of dog guides with children under the age of sixteen. Under the heading "Dog Guides are Not Recommended for Blind Children," the agency spokesmen pointed out that "dog guides are not pets" but working animals requiring responsible and mature handling.

"Without these mature qualities, blind children endeavoring to use dog guides subject themselves and others to undue risk. We have no objection to well-intentioned efforts to acquaint blind children with

dogs or other animals. We would, however, advise parents of blind children to examine carefully the prerequisites for safe and proper use of dog guides," the statement said.

"It would indeed be unfortunate, we feel, if the public gained the impression that blind children who do not have dog guides are, therefore, groping and helpless, with few if any opportunities to prepare for responsible citizenship. Those of us who have worked with blind children in school, camp and elsewhere know how inaccurate such an impression is."

Among those signing the statement are: William F. Johns, Executive Director of Guide Dogs for the Blind, San Rafael, California; Harold Pocklington, Executive Director of Leader Dogs for the Blind, Rochester, Michigan; George Werntz, Jr., Executive Vice President of Seeing Eye, Inc., and representatives of the American Foundation for the Blind, the American Association of Workers for the Blind, the U. S. Vocational Rehabilitation Administration and the Veterans Administration.

"To live effectively, blind children need to acquire many other skills before they are ready to take on responsibility for care and control of dog guides," the statement declared. "Except in rare instances, training with a dog guide should be postponed until the mid to late teens. Like learning to drive a car, learning to use a dog guide should be a privilege reserved for those who have fully demonstrated their maturity and responsibility."

N. F. B. RESOLUTION ON WHITE CANE LAW

(Editor's note: Following is the text of a resolution approved unanimously by the 1963 convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Philadelphia, July 6, 1963.)

"WHEREAS, the protection of the lives and limbs of blind pedestrians is a major concern of all of the blind of the nation; and

"WHEREAS, public safety education as to the meaning of the White Cane and the requirements of the White Cane Law is necessary

to obtain the maximum safety of such pedestrians;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind, in convention assembled, in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, this 6th day of July, 1963, that:

"1. Our members, acting individually and through their local organizations, be urged to cooperate to the fullest extent to further public safety education campaigns; and

"2. Efforts should be made to persuade the governors of each of the fifty states to proclaim October 15th, 'White Cane Safety Day'; and

"3. Efforts should be made to enlist the cooperation of Lions Clubs, radio and television stations, newspapers, etc., to bring about the widest possible dissemination of this public safety education; and

"4. The editor of THE BLIND AMERICAN be requested to publish this resolution."

LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATES

Among developments within the states affecting the welfare of blind Americans, during the 1963 legislative season, has been Arkansas' authorization to its Public Welfare Department to increase grants to blind recipients to a maximum of \$85 per month. Legislation was also approved providing that in determining the need of blind Arkansans the department shall treat as earned income the net proceeds realized by a person owning five or fewer cows, from the sale of their calves, or from any other farm product, with net proceeds averaged over the calendar year.

In Colorado and Indiana, the legislatures lined up with the federal program in providing that, for a blind individual who has a state-approved plan for achieving self-support, the county welfare department shall disregard for one year such additional amounts of income and resources as may be necessary to fulfill his rehabilitation plan.

Georgia this year enacted into law a measure providing that workers in the factories for the blind shall receive and observe all state holidays with pay, and passed another bill relieving the counties of the

normal four percent participation in medical care payments for recipients of aid to the blind.

In Iowa, the method of county payments from the poor fund for administrative costs of the AB fund was changed in order to permit increased federal aid for the program. Kansas, meanwhile, extended its earned-income exemption provision for blind aid recipients to meet requirements of the federal law.

In Rhode Island, a bill failed of passage which would have consolidated under one commission the present state services for welfare, rehabilitation, education, recreation, licensing and registration of the blind. Also defeated was a resolution creating a special commission to study the state's programs for the blind; and still another defeat was suffered by a measure designed to transfer the State Bureau for the Blind and the Advisory Council for the Blind from the Department of Social Welfare to the Department of Education.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Californian in Peace Corps. Mike McAviney, former president and state delegate of the Monterey County Chapter of the California Council of the Blind, has entered the Peace Corps training program at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, according to the CCB BULLETIN. Upon completion of the training, Mike will be sent to Ecuador to work with blind students. He has just received his A.A. degree from Hartnell College in Salinas, where he was awarded the title of "Most Inspirational Student."

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New Jersey Sets Convention. The sixth annual convention of the State Council of New Jersey Organizations of the Blind will be held on Saturday, October 19, in the Brownstone House (West Broadway and Burhans Avenue), Paterson, New Jersey. President Myles Crosby extends a cordial invitation to all BLIND AMERICAN readers to attend the annual event, which will be climaxed by a banquet and dance.

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Massachusetts Blind Meet October 5. The 10th annual state-wide

convention of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts will meet in Springfield, October 5 and 6, under sponsorship of the Greater Springfield Association. More than 200 delegates from seven other affiliate chapters will convene to elect state officers and vote on policies. Special features of the convention will include an address by Russell Kletzing, president of the parent National Federation of the Blind, the chartering of a Greenfield-Athol chapter, a banquet and a dance at the Hotel Sheraton-Kimball. During the banquet an as yet unnamed chapter will be presented the Dr. Jacobus tenBroek Award for outstanding contributions advancing the welfare of the blind in the state.

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Carolinian Hails NFB Conclave. Marshall Tucker, veteran leader of the organized blind in South Carolina, gave his fellow Aurorans a vivid report on the NFB's Philadelphia convention in the pages of THE PALMETTO AURORAN, voice of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind. Noting that he had been privileged to attend five of the last eight national conventions, Tucker observed: "In my opinion, this year's convention was by far the best. The question of survival did not have to be dealt with; for, in its place loomed the challenges of the future. Today's challenges were spelled out to us through speeches, reports and several very fine panel discussions....

"Why is the National Federation a great organization? It is because its members are willing to make sacrifices themselves for it. South Carolina Aurorans are no exception to this rule. Several members sacrificed their money, talents and time to see to it that Aurorans from all over the state could go to a national convention, who otherwise could not have gone on their own.... I am certain that the blind of South Carolina will be more closely knitted to the nation's blind, for twenty persons had an excellent opportunity to witness at first hand what a national organization of the blind can do and will do for its fellow-blind if only given the opportunity."

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Prevention of Blinding Disease Seen. A significant step toward the solving and prevention of the fatal Tay-Sachs disease, a deterioration of the nervous system resulting in blindness, has been taken at New York's Isaac Albert Research Institute, according to a recent report in the NEW YORK TIMES. Doctors at the Institute have assertedly succeeded in devising a test which identified carriers of the disease. This discovery is expected to represent the first effective step in the control of the rare disease.

One of the disease's mysteries is that most of the estimated

half-million carriers in the U. S. are persons of Jewish ancestry whose forebears lived in a narrow strip of land along the former Latvian-Polish-Russian border. It is generally believed that both parents must be carriers for their offspring to be affected, according to the TIMES. Through use of the newly developed test, carriers may now be identified and forewarned so that any two planning to marry will be aware of the risk involved.

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Alec Templeton Dead. The internationally famous blind pianist, Alec Templeton, died recently of cancer at his Connecticut home. The versatile entertainer, blind from birth, was 52 years old. He had been equally noted for his musical sense of humor and imaginative improvisations at the keyboard as well as for his brilliance as a serious performing artist. Accounts of his life have praised the attitude of his parents who wisely resolved that his blindness should not interfere with his leading a normal productive life. Famous in his home country of England during the late 1920's, Templeton came to America in 1936 and remained to become a citizen five years later.

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Denver Picnic. The annual "Colorado Day" picnic of the Denver Area Association of the Blind was well-attended on August 1 by about 70 active members and their families, according to our Colorado correspondent, Ethel Mahaney -- who adds that the yearly outing is virtually a time of reunion for many of the members who are unable to attend the Association's regular monthly meetings.

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A grateful overture of welcome is extended by THE BLIND AMERICAN to Mrs. Helen Kitchen Branson of Boise, Idaho, who has accepted an invitation to serve as our Correspondent on behalf of the Gem State Blind. Both Mrs. Branson and her husband, Ralph Branson, also blind, have signed contracts to teach at the Wilder, Idaho, high school, this fall -- and are believed to be the first sightless persons to be accepted as teachers in the state's public schools. Mrs. Branson, who holds a master's degree from the University of Southern California, is an accomplished reporter -- capable of providing a wealth of journalistic gems from the Gem State.

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"Hail, Columbia." Donald C. Capps, president of South

Carolina's Aurora Club of the Blind and 2nd Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind, penned the following lines in tribute to his home city of Columbia in the August issue of THE PALMETTO AURORED: "It is a mighty disgruntled frog who does not croak about his own pond, but we simply do not believe that the country affords a finer city in which to live than Columbia, South Carolina. . . . It is here that blind students attend the University of South Carolina without difficulty. It is here that the first Center for the Blind in South Carolina was built. It is here that the only workshop for the blind in the state was erected four decades ago. It is here that the state agency for the blind assists the state's blind citizens. No city in the state or city of comparable size in the nation, we believe, has more blind people per capita employed than does the City of Columbia. It was Columbia that hired the state's first braille switchboard operator. It was Columbia that allowed a blind person to operate the concession at one of its parks. We hail thee, Columbia, and are grateful for your full acceptance and understanding of those of us who happen to be blind."

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Electronic Eye for Blind. Electronic aids, which now help the deaf to hear and the mute to speak, are being mobilized by science in order to assist the blind to "read" printed material quickly and easily, according to an article in the CCB OUTLOOK, official publication of the Canadian Council of the Blind. A University of British Columbia electrical engineer was said to be working on tonal morse and "spelled speech" systems toward this end.

While simple devices to translate letters into sounds -- such as the octophone -- have been known since 1914, the new systems promise to clarify sounds and permit much faster reading, the scientist said. He hopes to give tonal morse, which greatly cuts down the number of sounds, the "acid tests" in experiments with blind persons later this year.

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Golden Staters to Convene. The Fall 1963 convention of the California Council of the Blind will be held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, October 18, 19 and 20, according to Council President Jim McGinnis. He adds that a variety of informative speeches, panel discussions and reports will be on the agenda, and that "the convention committee is planning some surprises for the banquet" to be held Saturday evening, October 19.

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New Jersey Group Meets. The Associated Blind of New Jersey held its first annual meeting in New Brunswick in June "and set a course toward better protection for blind vending stand operators and the needy blind," according to the ASSOCIATED BLIND LEADER. Norbert Cifelli, of Trenton, was elected chairman of the board in a close race with Robert Owens, also of Trenton. Arthur Linsinbigler, Trenton, was named president of the group in ABNJ's statewide balloting, and Stanley G. Spaide of Audubon became executive vice president. Other v-p's elected are: First, Mildred Tremple; second, Fay Price; third, Marie Sullivan; fourth, Cecil Leon, and fifth, Nancy Farreny. Robert Owens was named executive secretary and legal agent. Resolutions dealing with the threat of automatic vending to blind vendors and with certain welfare regulations were adopted at the meeting.

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Swiss Home Training School. A holiday home operated by the Swiss Federation of the Blind near Vevy, Switzerland, was the scene recently of a special course in home economics designed for blind women and girls, according to a report by John Jarvis, Secretary-General of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, published in the CCB (Canadian Council of the Blind) OUTLOOK. The six students who took part in the course worked in groups of three while preparing meals, Jarvis reported, and each student was responsible for her own menu, with guidance from the teacher and her assistants. The students (two of whom are married) ranged from 24 to 50 years in age. The choice of subjects was left mainly to the students themselves, and was said to vary from such practical matters as the right use of spices and condiments to the relationship between diet and obesity.

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Virginia Meet Hailed. Highlights of last May's sixth annual convention of the Virginia Federation of the Blind were presented in graphic fashion in the August issue of the VFB NEWSLETTER. The article praised the dual performance of John Nagle, Washington, chief of the National Federation, who moderated a panel discussion on employment opportunities and also joined Tim Seward in detailing the progress of our legislation through Congress. Another national leader who did double duty was Don Capps, NFB Second Vice-President, who delivered the convention's banquet address and reported at length in another session on the work of South Carolina's state organization. Of his talks the NEWSLETTER said: "Mr. Capps' enthusiasm for the Federation work is so contagious that everyone must have left the convention determined to accomplish more during the coming year."

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Blind Man Aids Birth. Billy Roy, blind cafeteria manager of Chicago, found himself in an unaccustomed role -- that of obstetrician -- when he helped his wife successfully deliver their seventh child. Roy's impromptu medical performance, according to a UPI news story published in the Oakland (California) TRIBUNE, began when his wife woke him at 3 a.m. one night in August. He called a doctor and had begun shaving when his wife indicated that time had run out.

"It had to be done," Roy said later. "There is only one way a baby can come. I happened to catch the baby's head and work it out." His oldest daughter, 14, stood by and watched the delivery. Her father told her to cover the new baby while they waited for the doctor to arrive. The Roy family now includes five boys and two girls, all with normal sight. Roy's wife, Bernice, also 39, is partially blind.

"You can do a lot of things when pushed into them," Roy observed in summing up the adventure. "But let's not emphasize the blindness bit. I'm just a normal father who has learned not to be nonchalant about babies."

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"Thought you might like to know that 88 of our group took a ride August 10 on 'The Belle of Louisville.' " So reads a colorful postcard received from Bob Whitehead, the vigorous president of the Kentucky Federation of the Blind. The "Belle," as nearly all tourists to the Bourbon State know to their delight, is a historic sternwheel steamboat used for excursion trips on the scenic Ohio River. . . . We trust that the cause of Federationism was toasted in juleps along the way, to the tune of "The Beautiful Ohio."

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Dakota Site of Blind School. The North Dakota State School of Science, at Wahpeton, has been selected as the first school in the nation to be used as a regional trade training center for blind students, according to an article in the FARGO (N.D.) FORUM AND MOOREHEAD NEWS. The newspaper story, forwarded to us by Dr. Rudolph Bjornseth, head of the North Dakota State Federation of the Blind, noted that the training center will be a pilot demonstration project which, if successful, will lead the way to establishment of other such schools for blind trainees. The first group of eight blind students will start school in September and will emphasize machine shop training, along with electrical and electric-appliance repair.

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Guide Dog Service Offered. Second Sight - Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., is embarking upon a public education program to explain its work, according to a release from the New York organization. Any totally blind person reportedly may apply for application forms, which will be sent by return mail. Once the application is completed by a member of the family and the medical questionnaire filled out by the physician and returned to Second Sight, Forest Hills, New York, the application will be processed and qualification determined within one month. If accepted the applicant goes to the Smithtown Training Center on Long Island, where he receives four weeks' training, food, lodging, and (in the candid language of the release) "custodial care" -- all free of charge. There are said to be no other expenses. Further information may be obtained by writing to: Second Sight - Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind Training Committee, Public Education Division, Forest Hills 11375, New York.

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Blind Masseur Rubs "Veep." "A soothing rubdown from a blind physical therapist helped Vice-President Lyndon Johnson enjoy a good night's sleep after a hard day of politicking and jet travel," according to an item in the SACRAMENTO UNION. The August news story was accompanied by a front-page photo of Vern I. Nelson, a licensed therapist who is well-known to California Council members and Federationists. The rubdown, applied in Johnson's hotel room, was a resounding success.

* * * * *

Blind Father of the Year. William D. Myers, of Wilmington, Massachusetts, was recently named "Blind Father of the Year" by the National Fathers Day Committee. Myers, a project engineer at Avco Corporation, was honored in a ceremony conducted at New York City headquarters of the American Foundation for the Blind.

* * * * *

Seeing Eye Goes Afield. Robert Whitstock, field representative of Seeing Eye, Inc., made a ten-state swing early this year, traveling over 10,000 miles while speaking on mobility and orientation at regional workshops for teachers of residential and public schools sponsored by the American Association of Instructors of the Blind. This summer Whitstock expects to log another 30,000 miles, addressing several conventions of blind groups and participating in additional university workshops.

* * * * *

New Peter Putnam Book. Peter Putnam, well-known blind author of Cast Off the Darkness and Keep Your Head Up, Mr. Putnam, has written another book, entitled The Triumph of the Seeing Eye. Designed primarily for young readers, his nonfiction volume relates the story of the breakthrough which occurred when primitive man first recognized the guide potential of the jackal, progenitor of the dog -- a discovery which in the author's view reoccurs whenever blind man and guide dog are brought together.

* * * * *

Handicapped American of the Year. David Hall, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, was the winner recently of the "Handicapped American of the Year" award presented by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Hall, paralyzed as the result of an automobile accident, is supervisor of a sheltered workshop. The award was made at ceremonies which included addresses by President Kennedy and Larry LeSeuer, famed radio and TV commentator.

* * * * *

Large-Type Encyclopedia. The publication of a large-type edition of World Book Encyclopedia, the first general encyclopedia for use of the partially seeing, has been announced by the publishers, Field Enterprises Educational Corporation of Chicago. To be completed early next year, the full set will total 30 volumes, all containing the printed and illustrated material found in the regular 20-volume World Book. Pre-publication orders are being taken, with the price for the entire set fixed at \$299, including transportation costs.

THE BLIND AMERICAN

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MY FIRST YEAR WITH THE PEACE CORPS

By Marilyn Brandt

(Editor's note: The first blind American to serve with the Peace Corps, Miss Brandt recently completed her initial year in an arduous and challenging assignment: teaching the blind population of the under-developed Dominican Republic. Herewith, written expressly for this journal, is her report on that precedent-setting experience.)

Can you imagine living in a country in which the needs and capabilities of the blind are practically unknown to the public? The Dominican Republic estimates its blind population at over 1,500, and yet only provides one training institution which houses between twenty and twenty-five students. No job-placement service exists; therefore, the blind are unemployed. My job as a teacher at the National School for the Blind in Santo Domingo is one which has many challenges to offer.

Perhaps I should begin by introducing myself. My name is Marilyn Brandt. I am originally from San Antonio, Texas. After completion of 12 years at the Texas School for the Blind, I attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College for four years. I hold a B.S. degree in education and a teaching certificate on the secondary school level. I spent three months at Texas Lion's Camp, a rehabilitation and personal adjustment center for the adult blind.

Last fall I began work on my masters degree, but my work was interrupted by an invitation to train with a Peace Corps group bound for the Dominican Republic in February. I knew little about the work I would be doing here, during my training in Vermont and Puerto Rico, but I was aware of the need felt in this country for advancing the education and rehabilitation of the blind.

It was difficult to decide just what to do, what subjects to teach, what projects to start. Sandra Ford, another volunteer in our group, was assigned to work with me. We spent many hours trying to decide what was really most important for the school, the students, and the future progress of the blind men and women of this country. We attended a conference held in Puerto Rico and sponsored by the American Foundation for the Blind; and we came back to this country with many new ideas and approaches to the work here. The school sent me to New York to confer further with the American Foundation, and to purchase materials for the school.

It is difficult to think in terms of a complete program of education, rehabilitation, and job placement with only an under-staffed and much neglected one-building institution as a beginning. We lacked materials, teachers, space, and most important, we lacked a well-coordinated and sincere effort on the part of the government to help us start any program or project. We had the support of the American agencies, United States Information Service, Alliance for Progress, and of course the Peace Corps; but we knew that we must make the Dominican government feel a real responsibility and desire to help because, after all, this was their school.

Sandra began teaching typing and signature writing. I taught daily living skills and math. Soon we received canes as a donation from the Peace Corps, and a basketball for our recreational program. One of the students who had attended the rehabilitation center in Puerto Rico began teaching travel classes. Sandra started a ball team. I organized a Bingo night each week, using the set I had purchased in New York. We showed the arts and crafts teacher how to make pot-holders and how to work with reed, and this led to a whole new field of creativity for the students. We sponsored dances and game nights every three or four weeks. Then suddenly it was June, and school was out for the summer.

During July and August we brailled maps and labeled tapes of classical music made by the United States Information Service. Sandra began work on a relief map of this island. One of the Peace Corps volunteers built a small vending stand, by which means we will train some of our students to sell candies, magazines, etc. We made a list of needs for the kitchen which the Alliance for Progress promised to help us obtain in order to teach our girls to cook. And, we made a few visits around the island to get an idea of the home lives of some of our students.

We are in hopes that a representative from the American Foundation for the Blind will arrive here soon to help us plan and establish a more thorough program. A new volunteer, Geer Wilcox, has come to help us in the school as well as in other areas of the program. Our braille teacher is going to the States for further training. We are expecting about three new students this year.

School begins in another week, and we are anxious to really get back to work. The enthusiasm and motivation of our students is overwhelming. We must make this school year really worthwhile, not only for our own personal satisfaction and for that of our students, but for the advancement of the entire concept of blindness -- its problems and its necessity to be understood. If we can leave this country with just a handful of students relatively well-rehabilitated and holding jobs

responsibly and independently, we will feel that we have made a small contribution toward progress.

PIONEERING IN THE IDAHO SCHOOLS

By Helen and Ralph Branson

(Editor's note: Ralph Branson and his wife, Helen Kitchen Branson, both took on new teaching positions this fall in the Wilder, Idaho, public high school. It is not very unusual, perhaps, to find a husband and wife teaching in the same school; but the success of the Bransons signallizes an event which may well be without precedent in the history of American public education. Both Mr. and Mrs. Branson are blind. Following is their own account of their mutual experience.)

It is rather interesting and ego-satisfying at times to be the pioneers in any venture. While teaching in the public schools in California and New York is no novelty for blind persons, in Idaho it certainly is. We both found this out rather graphically, when we returned to Idaho after twenty years' service in correctional work with a private agency in California.

For some time we had been considering the possibility of teaching in the public schools. When we applied in Idaho, we found many friendly people, but after 29 applications in a total of six different states, we found that most school superintendents do not consider the blind to be desirable candidates for teaching below the junior college level. Fortunately, however, we did find several districts which were willing to consider one blind individual as a possible employee. But two blind people in the same district! The superintendent himself might be sympathetic, but frequently the school board itself was unwilling. Finally, however, in Wilder, Idaho, both the superintendent and the school board proved willing to give both of us positions on a trial basis. Thus, we are presently both teaching at the senior high school level.

American History, World History, American Government and Civics make up the teaching load of Ralph Branson; he is also advisor for the senior class. Mrs. Branson teaches Special Education Home-

making, (girls of high school age, but mentally retarded capacity); Freshman Homemaking, Advanced Homemaking, Sociology, and two sections of Business English. She is advisor for the school paper, THE WILD CAT GROWLS, and for the Future Homemakers of America Club, and is co-advisor of the freshman class. Both of the Bransons have M.A. degrees in sociology from the University of Southern California.

THREE STATES GO UNDER

Public assistance programs for the blind in Florida, Hawaii and Oklahoma have "gone under" -- and the welfare prospects of thousands of blind persons have gone under with them.

Those three states have received approval from the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare of plans to merge their programs of aid to the blind, aged and disabled under Title XVI -- the optional combined category enacted last year as an amendment to the Social Security Act.

Meanwhile, according to the federal agency, similar plans on the part of seven other states and two territories are now under consideration (Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). Four more states (Alaska, Illinois, Kansas and Vermont) have passed enabling legislation but have not yet submitted plans.

"Merger of the adult programs," the federal department states with deceptive blandness, "is expected to make administration simpler and more efficient through use of common standards and procedures for all needy adult recipients."

In that terse statement are contained both the real reason behind the massive pressure for the new joint category -- and the real reason for equally massive opposition to it by the blind and those interested in their welfare. Administration may indeed be "made simpler" by treating all three categories of adult recipients -- blind, aged and disabled -- as if they are identical. But the application of "common standards" and uniform procedures means in actual likelihood the destruction of all the gains and distinctive achievements won by the blind under Title X over the past three decades.

For the blind, under Title XVI, things will not be "simpler" -- they will be simply worse.

In Hawaii the surrender of the needy blind to the catch-all category carries a special note of tragedy. For in the island state -- through the persistent efforts of the NFB and the Hawaii Association of the Blind -- the stage had been set for almost certain enactment of a progressive new aid law containing a separate program for the blind. That prospect has now been extinguished, on the eve of its realization. The substantial gains which were about to be made for Hawaii's blind cannot possibly be legislated for the aged and disabled as well -- because of the many millions of dollars which would be involved.

Nor is this defeat only a temporary setback. According to federal interpretation of the amendment, once a state has gone under Title XVI it may never extricate itself. The separate program of aid to the blind under Title X, with its independent features and hard-won standards, is thenceforth forever closed.

In the course of the coming months, blind Americans should keep close watch over the fate of their welfare programs in those states which have "gone under." In going under Title XVI, have they also gone under the wheels of a steamroller set to level their distinctive standards and allowances to the scale of the lowest common denominator?

The threat is most obvious and urgent with respect to the cash grant. In Hawaii, as of last March, the average monthly payment to the needy blind was \$76.20; for the needy aged it was \$49.87. In Florida, the average grant to the blind was \$59.02; for the aged it was \$47.40. In Oklahoma, the figures were \$96.55 for the blind, \$74.19 for the aged.

In future months, will the aged go up to the average of the blind -- or will the blind go down to the average of the aged?

The average grant figures are only a single indication of the general threat which confronts blind welfare as a result of the common-standards requirement under Title XVI.

The same clear and present danger -- of the loss of liberalized provisions and independent gains won through years of struggle -- exists with regard to residence requirements, responsibility of relatives, lien laws, and numerous other provisions which often vary greatly among the three adult categories, and generally in favor of the blind.

Three states have now gone under. Eleven more states and two territories are about to submerge. Will the blind in the rest of the

nation be dragged down with them?

ORGANIZED LABOR IN SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

By Stanley A. Munson

(Editor's note: The following brief article presents an unusual and hopeful perspective on the continuing struggle of blind sheltered shop workers for the rights of self-organization and the fruits of collective bargaining. It points to a remarkably successful campaign, initiated almost a generation ago by blind employees of the Seattle Lighthouse, to secure those rights and improve wages and working conditions. Mr. Munson was the organizer, and for 28 years the president, of Local 84 of the International Broom and Whisk Makers Union.)

Much can be said for the need of organized labor in the agency workshop. The failure of welfare agencies to set up any minimum standards in the sheltered workshops that management must adhere to is chiefly responsible for the substandard conditions found in agency shops in almost every state in the Union.

Many laws have been passed by Congress to protect the handicapped worker. But what good are these laws if the worker has no power or organized authority behind him to force management to live up to them? On the one hand we pass laws to protect the rights of the handicapped -- and on the other hand the National Labor Relations Board authorizes releases and exemptions that completely nullify the intent of those protective laws. In recent years it has become apparent that these edicts of the NLRB have often been used not to put the handicapped to work but rather to cover up the inefficiency of workshop management.

Twenty-eight years ago the broom makers in the Lighthouse for the Blind of Seattle, Washington, organized Local 84 of the International Broom and Whisk Makers Union. It took nine long months for the members of Local 84 to gain their first contract with the management of the Lighthouse. The blind American who wishes to work for his livelihood should be interested in learning of the progress which the members of Local 84 have made in the nearly three decades since their work began.

Twenty-eight years ago, the top broom winder was earning \$16.20 a week; today the average broom winder is earning \$85 a week. Where 28 years ago the top floor worker was earning \$20 a week, today the top floor worker makes \$66 a week. In 1935 the beginner or new employee was informed that he could come to work and labor for no pay until such time as management felt he was capable of producing value. After several weeks of no pay at all, the new employee was given a dollar a day; and after several months he might earn as much as \$12 a week for average floor work. Today the new employee in the Lighthouse starts in at 60¢ an hour for a 60-day training period, and then is brought up to the minimum wage. The Federal Certificate of Operations for Sheltered Workshops, included in our present contract with the Lighthouse management, insures that the new employee will be given wage adjustments in accordance with his work ability.

The terms of the present union contract existing Local 84 and the Lighthouse for the Blind, includes the basic principles of organized labor: a union shop for all broom winders and stitchers, with the opportunity for other employees to join the union also if they wish; a five percent raise for all employees in the Lighthouse (bringing them up to the highest piece-work rates in the country); a seniority clause, and an arbitration clause.

The slow and steady progress made by our union, from the bottom to the top of the ladder of security and opportunity, has not been easy. Although most of the conflicts have been fought out behind the scenes, our disputes have often been very bitter. But our successful struggle for survival, and indeed for continuous improvement of conditions, may well stand as a model and precedent for other blind workers in the sheltered shops of America.

TRIBULATIONS OF A BLIND TEACHER

(Editor's note: Following is a condensation of a paper prepared for delivery before the October convention of the Michigan Council of the Blind by Miss Evelyn Weckerly, a blind schoolteacher of Berkley, Michigan. Miss Weckerly's articulate personal narrative, reprinted from the MCB BULLETIN, seems to us eminently worthy of attention by blind Americans everywhere.)

In recent months I have had that experience which comes to nearly all of us at some time or another: finding a job. Blind persons who have had this experience know how frustrating and discouraging it can be. My own story, although not new, may possibly help other blind persons who are looking for skilled positions.

As a child, I attended both the Detroit public schools and the state school for the blind. In the fall of 1959, I entered Michigan State University and majored in English. Although I wanted to become an English teacher, the school of education would not at first place me for student teaching; however, two other students and I were so far advanced in our training that the school felt obligated to do so. The first two of us did so well as student teachers that the policy was changed. Blind students are now admitted for placement, but they must be interviewed first and demonstrate capability to do the work.

Great as the demand for teachers is, I had to wait six months for a contract offer. Throughout this period I felt considerable discouragement and frustration owing to public ignorance and prejudice. About half of the 163 applications sent out were answered within a reasonable period of time; about half of those answering stated that the position was filled or that I shouldn't have to face some of their particular problems. The most enraging responses in this group were from those who hoped my "dream" would come true, but felt they simply could not hire me. The other respondents either sent application forms or accepted my letter and college credentials as sufficient. I had six interviews.

I firmly feel I was extremely fortunate: first, in getting a copy of the conference report on Exchange of Ideas and Devices conducted by California's blind teachers, a great help in my student teaching; and second, in contacting Dr. Grant, who made available to me a wealth of information. I was thus able to get a job within six months instead of waiting for years, as is the case with many professionally trained blind persons.

My experience illustrates the need for good communication between blind people in training and those already employed. Much can be done through the schools. Detailed information should be made available to high school students about opportunities in various vocations, and details should be provided on how blind people can meet the specific problems arising in each field. Names and addresses of successful blind people in a field could be provided not only in high schools, but also in college placement bureaus and counseling centers.

Finally, there should be closer coordination between the Division of Services for the Blind and college and universities. Although

the individual blind person should put forth his utmost to secure skilled jobs, he should also have access to a greater number of resources than those which presently exist.

WASHINGTON REPORT: PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

By John F. Nagle

(Editor's note: Mr. Nagle is chief of the Washington office of the National Federation of the Blind. His report covers recent and current activities on the Congressional front which affect the interests of blind Americans.)

The most significant recent event on Capitol Hill was the introduction on September 25 of a Senate bill duplicating the positive proposals of the "King bill" (H.R. 6245), which had been introduced in the House last spring. Presented by our long-time friend Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana, the new measure (S. 2181) is designed to amend Titles X and XVI of the Social Security Act in order to "more effectively encourage and assist blind individuals to achieve rehabilitation and restoration to a normal, full and fruitful life."

Like its companion measure introduced by Congressman Cecil R. King of California, the Hartke bill calls for the following specific improvements in blind aid: it abolishes responsibility of relatives, liens, and residence requirements; requires states to fix a floor for aid and to meet individual needs above that floor; allows the states under Title XVI to retain separate standards and separate administration, and to secure improved medical sharing; increases federal matching, and provides that new case services not be tied to the aid grant, be given only if requested, and be adapted to the problems of the blind. (For details on the King-Hartke bill, see THE BLIND AMERICAN, May, 1963.)

Much planning and effort preceded the introduction of S. 2181. A month before Senator Hartke planned to put his bill in the Senate "hopper," he sent a letter to all of his colleagues, inviting them to join with him as cosponsors. Then, as the NFB's representative in

Washington, I called upon all of the Senate offices (99) and discussed the provisions of the Hartke measure with staff assistants to the Senators. Later I followed up those office visits with a telephone call to the legislative and administrative assistants to whom I had talked, notifying them of the definite date when the Hartke bill would be introduced and also urging cosponsorship.

The result of all this work was most gratifying: 21 Senators joined with Senator Hartke in introducing S. 2181. I am sure that readers of THE BLIND AMERICAN will be interested in knowing the names of the Hartke bill cosponsors. (I would further suggest that, if your Senators appear on this list, it would be most helpful if you should choose to write to them, thanking them for cosponsoring the bill, and explaining how important and urgently needed this legislation is. Address your letters: Honorable _____, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Here are the Hartke blind-aid bill cosponsors: Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, Maine; E. L. Bartlett and Ernest Gruening, Alaska; Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania; Ralph Yarborough, Texas; Mrs. Maurine Neuberger and Wayne Morse, Oregon; Lee Metcalf, Montana; Frank Moss, Utah; Hubert Humphrey and Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota; Jennings Randolph, West Virginia; Joseph Clark, Pennsylvania; Stephen Young, Ohio; Daniel Inouye, Hawaii, Birch Bayh, Indiana; Harrison Williams, New Jersey; James Eastland, Mississippi; Daniel Brewster, Maryland; Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut; Warren G. Magnuson, Washington.

Several weeks after the National Federation's Philadelphia convention, I received a call from a staff assistant of Congressman Robert Corbett of Pittsburgh, advising me that the Congressman had received a letter from a constituent -- one of our members -- asking if there was not something he could do to publicize October 15 as White Cane Safety Day. After some discussion, it was decided that a resolution should be introduced in Congress, calling upon President Kennedy to issue a proclamation declaring October 15, 1963, as "White Cane Safety Day."

On September 24, Congressman Corbett introduced such a resolution in the House of Representatives -- it is House Joint Resolution 753. Although time is short and the federal legislative machinery works slowly, I am still hopeful of Congressional action on this measure in time to allow the President to act on it.

On July 30, the Subcommittee of the U. S. House of Representatives on the Library of Congress held public hearings on a bill, introduced at the request of the National Association for the Physically Handicapped,

which would include the quadriplegics and the "near blind" in the federal Books for the Adult Blind Program.

Along with Gordon Connor, appearing for the American Association of Workers for the Blind, I opposed the bill on behalf of the NFB, contending that, by including nonblind persons in this program so vitally necessary program for the blind, the blind themselves would soon become but a small part of those served by the program, and, as a consequence, the unique needs of the blind would no longer be met. The Federation's position was that, rather than jeopardize the federal program which provides blind people with their only resource for reading matter, there should be created a separate federally-financed program which would make reading material available to all persons, other than the blind, who by virtue of physical disability are unable to read regular print books. At this date, the Subcommittee has taken no action on the Books for the Blind amending bill.

On another front, just a few days after our national convention adopted a resolution endorsing S. 1576, I testified on this measure (which had already passed the Senate with only one dissenting vote) before the House Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety. The bill contains provisions which would improve state programs of special education for all categories of disabled children, including blind children. The Federation had also previously testified in support of these provisions before the Senate Subcommittee on Education.

I am happy to report that S. 1576 has now passed the House of Representatives, and members of both houses of Congress are meeting in conference to work out differences between the two versions of the bill.

Now that the federal Income Tax Reduction bill has passed the House of Representatives, we are waiting for a call to testify before the Senate Finance Committee in support of our bill (which Senator Hartke will introduce shortly) to allow an additional income tax exemption to a taxpayer supporting a dependent who is blind. We testified on this proposal before the House Ways and Means Committee earlier this year, when it was introduced by Congressman King of California as H.R. 1659 (identical to the proposed Hartke bill). However, since the House did not include this proposal in its approved bill, the Federation will make another try in the Senate.

Meanwhile, as a direct result of public hearings held by the Senate Government Operations Committee last June 26, 1962, on amendments to the Randolph-Sheppard Act -- at which the NFB gave its vigorous support to the proposed changes in the Vending Stand

law -- several federal departments and agencies have announced the creation of appeals procedures within their jurisdictions. Although these procedures are no substitute for the Presidentially-appointed Appeals Board which we seek, they do provide a means of obtaining consideration of disputes which may develop between officials in charge of federal buildings and state vending stand licensing agencies, and will help to increase available vending stand locations -- thus providing improved employment opportunities for trained and qualified blind persons under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

State Prevention of Blindness programs are expected to get a big boost from the increased federal funds authorized for the Crippled Children's Program in H.R. 7544, which has already passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate Finance Committee. When this measure was being considered by the House Ways and Means Committee in executive sessions, the Federation gave its endorsement of the views of the American Foundation for the Blind, as contained in a statement submitted by its Washington representative, Irvin P. Schloss.

We are now prepared to present supporting testimony on amendments to H.R. 7544, should the Finance Committee hold public hearings on this measure. One amendment would change the name of the Crippled Children's Program to "Services for Children with Physical or Mental Impairment," thus more accurately describing the nature of the program and the scope of services provided. This change in name should stimulate the use of the resources of the federal program for children, many do not now avail themselves of it since they believe, from the misleading title, that it is intended to serve only orthopedically impaired children, whereas its actual purpose is to serve a broad area of disabilities in children.

Another amendment to be proposed by Nagle and Schloss would broaden the state plan requirements for this program so as to assure that all disabled children, whatever the nature of their disability, are provided with needed remedial or restorative medical and surgical services under the program.

A PROJECT FOR THE DEAF-BLIND

By Ethel Mahaney

(Editor's note: The following communication from our Colorado correspondent, Mrs. Ethel Mahaney of Denver, raises a point and outlines a project which should both be of interest to other blind Americans.)

I sometimes wonder how many blind people give any thought to the plight of our more unfortunate brothers and sisters -- the deaf-blind. When you are listening to the news reports on the radio, television or in the newspapers, do you realize how completely the deaf-blind are deprived of such media of news and information?

For several years now, I have been reporting daily news items in a braille newsletter which I send each week to a deaf-blind man, Clarence Goddard, who lives in Holyoke, Colorado. My project had its inception in a social club organized by a small group of blind persons. Although the club disbanded after three years, I was asked to continue editing its newsletter -- an assignment which I accepted eagerly. At the outset we had agreed to report only local and regional news stories, but when the newsletter became a personal project I decided to include pertinent national and international events as well. For instance, I tried to report, as accurately as possible, the descriptions of all the orbital flights of the astronauts as they came to me over the air.

The deep gratitude which Clarence Goddard expresses in his letters to me is ample reward for that effort. It affords me intense satisfaction to know that I am making life just a little brighter for someone more unfortunate than I am. Perhaps among those who read this there will be another person who would like to start a similar project for the deaf-blind. If so, I can assure him that the expenditure of effort will pay for itself many times over in the satisfaction that comes from a worthwhile task well-done.

THE MAIL BOX: "A SAD DAY FOR ILLINOIS"

To the Editor:

As you most likely know, Illinois has adopted the public assistance amendment known as "Title XVI." The blind have been thrown to the wolves. Few blind people knew anything about the amendment, and few knew anything about the bill in Springfield until after it has been passed. THE BLIND AMERICAN was the only magazine that gave any information about the federal plan. I read several journals and THE BLIND AMERICAN was the only one. I do not know what will happen now.

I would like to call your attention to the column "Hindsight" in the NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND. I wrote to Mr. Barnett [the executive editor] and he has a bit of my letter in his column in the September issue. Judging from his statement, he must get a lot of gripes on this subject. I would bet that most of the complaints are correct. I wrote to him today, urging the Foundation to investigate the complaints and to urge Congress to do something to correct the horrible mess. The government is pouring a lot of money into the states, and the needy have to exist on a subsistence budget.

I have been trying to get copies of the State letters, the official interpretation, and the Federal Handbook. They tell me that that information is not to be given out to anyone but the agencies. Here I have had a hard enough job to get my own personal budget; they are willing to read it to the recipient but do not want to give him a copy. Since we are in a single aid category now, I cannot see why we have to have case workers at all. The war widows just sign a statement once a year; the recipients of social security [insurance] and other systems of pensions do not have them. I do not see any reason why the people on public assistance have to be tormented with them.

It certainly is not a very pleasant thing to have a case worker wanting to peep into the dresser drawers and closets to see what is needed. When I told the social worker on my case that he could not look into my closets, he replied that I would not get the extra clothing. I had been denied the money to pay for a woman to clean for me, so I used the clothing money for that. They would not honor my doctor's letter stating that I was unable to do cleaning. It was not until I wrote to the Attorney General that I got the ten dollars involved, which I had been trying to obtain for something like two years.

Now with the new law I guess they will slaughter me. Put this

in the mail box; I would like to hear from others.

It was a sad day for Illinois when they broke with the National Federation of the Blind.

Sincerely yours,

Miss C. L. Corbin
4705 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60644

FROM A GLOBETROTTER'S JOURNAL

By Dr. Isabelle Grant

(Editor's note: Dr. Grant, world-famed "ambassador without portfolio" of the National Federation of the Blind, is back in Pakistan to continue her educational work. Following a year in the Asian country, she returned briefly this summer to attend the NFB's annual convention. Further accounts of Dr. Grant's travels and manifold activities in the Far East will appear in future issues of this journal.)

I would like to do something different this time. I shall not talk about my work, nor about that part of the world where I stayed, namely, Pakistan. I would like to take you on a swift run around that western arc of the Pacific and show you some of the most interesting work among blind people I have ever seen. To tell you about my visit to Malaya, where I attended a conference on education and training of blind persons in the Far East would take a chapter in itself.

Malaya is forward-looking, the work for the blind there is progressive. A goodly number of blind persons are being served with opportunity for rehabilitation and training, and not a few are already in open industry. One can say that a beginning has been made. Malaya is, in comparison with other countries in the Far East, a rich country, sitting as it is on tin, with rubber trees dotting its surface, both sources of national income. The British influence is still dominant. A well-stocked braille library administered by a most understanding lady from Palo Alto (wife of a government official), two braille presses,

a long-standing transcribing unit -- these were some of the assets in Malaya that frankly made me somewhat jealous, but happy. In Malaya, the way should now be open for blind persons in the professions. There are still too few leaders among the blind themselves.

Kuala Lumpur, where the conference was held, is a beautiful modern city with lots of people, lots of jobs, lots of educational facilities, lots of water, and loads of the most delectable papayas you ever tasted.

I had a most charming blind friend in Hong Kong. She and I were among the few, the very few, blind persons attending the conference. We met in Hong Kong, where she has charge of a small rehabilitation center. About ten of her trainees were learning the art of ceramics, for possible commercial opportunity once the skill was acquired. The potter's wheel was intriguing and the skill of the workers using it more so. The articles in the display cabinet could be matched in any high-class 'objets d'art' store, for every sort of article was made, glazed, and baked, from simple vases to intricate knick-knacks of fine texture.

I visited another factory, which was essentially a sub-contract factory and called a factory, not a sheltered workshop. In it there were about 170 blind persons, men and women, engaged in the traditional trades, chair-caning, basketry, but also in modern trades.

Watching the making of plastic buttons from the raw plastic stage to the polishing and the piercing of the holes was exciting. I longed to be like the Chinese women there, to get my hands on these machines and get the thrill of actually making buttons. Hong Kong has a large export trade in men's shirts, and, consequently, there is a large industry in button-making. My clumsy fingers would have shown up against the deft and nimble fingers of these women, as they manipulated their enormous installations with ease and safety.

In another area, I thrilled to the quality of classroom chalk they were producing, free from grit, not too brittle, just the right length and thickness for the teacher, and felt I wanted to pocket a few pieces, for I surely needed them. I refrained!

One of the highlights of my Far East journey was the boat trip I made to the Portuguese island of Macao, to see the work for the blind on that little island. It was encouraging, well managed. Time did not permit my going to visit the school for blind children, for I was most interested in visiting and talking with Father Ruiz, that world-renowned saint of the East, who has done so much to feed the Chinese refugees from the mainland of China. Father Ruiz had 18 little orphans in his own compound. He had a long line of refugees every morning to receive

their quota of rice -- men, women, and children, mostly older men and women, and very young refugee children. But, Father Ruiz met them all with a greeting in Chinese, turned to us and spoke English, and to others in Portuguese. His delightful sense of humor in face of such distress and hunger was heart-warming.

KENTUCKY CONVENTION: "BIGGEST EVER"

"The biggest convention we have had yet!" declared old-time Federationists attending the annual gathering of the organized blind of Kentucky, held September 20-21 in the Kentucky Hotel, Louisville.

Highlights of the convention program included: a report on the legislative achievements of the KFOB since it was founded in 1946; a report on progress and plans of the State Blind Services Division by the Director and staff, including a demonstration of the abacus for the use of the blind in mathematics; a report by John Nagle, Federation representative in Washington, on federal legislation and on his activities for the organized blind; chapter reports and reports on the Philadelphia convention by delegates.

Elections were held with the following persons chosen to hold state office: R. E. Whitehead, president (re-elected); Margaret Bourne, first vice-president; John Steel, second vice-president; Kenneth Morton, third vice-president; Harold Reagan, recording secretary; Eloise Becker, corresponding secretary; Florence Denham, treasurer. Committee chairmen appointed were: Pat Vice, state legislation, and Glenn Shoulders, finance. The Kentucky Federation will be represented at the 1964 NFB convention by its president, Bob Whitehead, and Ernest Bourne.

More than 100 attended the convention banquet, during which there was a presentation of awards and an address by John Nagle, entitled "Through Unity, To Build a Voice." Honored at the banquet for "outstanding work" were Mrs. Pat Vice, the Federation's legislative chairman since 1958; Mrs. Peggy Traub, who has taught for more than 30 years at the Kentucky School for the Blind, and Pat Thompson, agent of Louisville Carpenters Union, who designed and directed construction of a Boy Scout cabin at the Kentucky School.

In its business sessions the Kentucky Federation adopted three resolutions calling for expanded state services to the blind. Heading the list was a request for the 1964 legislature to appropriate funds for the State Department of Education to begin a pilot program for teaching children who are both blind and deaf.

CALIFORNIA SCORES SUCCESS IN CIVIL SERVICE

(Editor's note: The following article by Russell Kletzing is reprinted in abridged form from THE COUNCIL BULLETIN, bi-monthly publication of the California Council of the Blind. Mr. Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind, is also executive secretary and general counsel for the California Council.)

Commencing before the 1957 legislative session, the California Council started talks with the State Personnel Board concerning increased placement of the blind in State Civil Service. Bills introduced in the 1957, 1959, and 1961 general sessions all failed to become law. In the 1962 Budget Session, however, we succeeded in obtaining an augmentation of the State Personnel Board budget for the express purpose of employing a specialist to assist in the placement of blind and other handicapped workers in State Civil Service. California is the first state to establish such a position.

For more than a year this position remained vacant. Last spring the examination was given, which, however, was made promotional with qualifications that excluded nearly all blind persons who might have been interested. Early last July, the appointment was finally made of James R. Wigton to the new position, Placement Specialist for Handicapped Persons. His address is: State Personnel Board, 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento 14, California.

Mr. Wigton's previous experience was in handicapped placement with the State Employment Service. He served as staff member for the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped which was where I first met him during the course of giving a talk to that group in the possibility of blind switchboard operators. He undoubtedly represents the best possible choice of those who were

eligible for the examination. Already, Jim Wigton is working to improve employment opportunities for the blind and other handicapped persons in State Civil Service. As with all placement of the blind, this can be expected to be a slow and arduous process. Some steps, however, have already been taken.

As a direct result of Wigton's work, the examination requirements for blind dictaphone operators have been materially modified. A blind applicant will now be allowed twice the examination time to take the written test (utilizing a reader) and will only be required to type 30 words per minute from a dictating machine instead of 45 words per minute. Concerning the reasons for these changes, Wigton said: "To reflect the fact that typing speed from recorded material is usually only about two-thirds of that from printed copy, the blind applicant for this class is now required to type about 30 words per minute while the sighted applicant, being tested in a different manner, must type 45 words per minute. It is believed that this newly adopted testing procedure will result in more blind persons passing the examination. We will then have the opportunity to discuss the qualifications of the successful blind competitors with agencies which have job openings for transcribers."

Another development has recently come to fruition as a result of discussions which began during the recent legislative session. Commencing as of September 1, there is no longer a question on State Civil Service applications concerning physical defects. This means that blind persons can no longer be disqualified from taking examinations on the basis of blindness.

MEET THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND

(Editor's note: Following are biographical sketches of two newly elected members of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of the Blind: Ray Dinsmore and Victor Johnson. Their biographies are reprinted from the latest edition of WHO ARE THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND, to be distributed by the NFB in October.)

RAY J. DINSMORE

Member, Executive Committee

Orchestra conductor, licensed chiropractor, independent businessman, volunteer social worker, member of an agency board of directors -- these are some of the facets in the varied career of Raymond James Dinsmore.

Born in 1902 in the town of Elwood, Indiana, Dinsmore lost his sight through a medical accident at the age of two -- later recovering slight vision in one eye. He received his education at the state schools for the blind in Ohio and Indiana, and went on to graduate from the Central States College of Chiropractic in Indianapolis. Finding the professional field crowded, Ray went to work as a furniture craftsman until the advent of the great depression of the 1930's induced him to move to New York with his wife, Frances, and two children.

Breaking into the field of entertainment as a musician, Dinsmore organized and conducted an all-blind dance orchestra under auspices of the WPA's Federal Art Project, and subsequently found additional outlet for his musical talents in radio and in work with the Police Athletic League of New York.

During the thirties he became an active volunteer worker with the Blind Industrial Workers' Association of Brooklyn, a cooperative agency owned and operated by blind persons themselves, which included among its functions a workshop, an extensive home work program, and services of counseling and placement. In 1940 Dinsmore was elected business manager of the Association, acting as its representative to the Greater New York Council of Agencies for the Blind. He served for 20 years on the Council's legislative committee and for several years on its public assistance committee; and for 11 years was also a member of the board of directors of the state-wide New York Association of Workers for the Blind. In 1955 he was instrumental in the organization of the Empire State Association for the Blind, which shortly thereafter became affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind.

In 1960 Dinsmore left New York to return to the Hoosier state, settling with his wife in Indianapolis where he started a successful commercial chair-caning and furniture repair business. As active as ever in work with the blind, Ray is president of the Indiana Council of the Blind. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the National Federation in 1963.

* * * * *

VICTOR JOHNSON

Member, Executive Committee

Victor Charles Johnson, operator of a successful vending stand business in St. Louis, is a veteran leader in the organized blind movement both of Missouri and of the nation. First elected to a four-year term on the NFB's Executive Committee in 1952, he was again chosen for that office by the national convention in 1963. He has been president and legislative representative of the United Workers for the Blind of Missouri, and has served two terms as president of the Alumni Association of the Missouri School for the Blind.

Born on a Missouri farm in 1899, Victor was several months old before his blindness was discovered -- and for years continued to wear the useless glasses prescribed for him by a country doctor. Fortunately, he was encouraged to enter the state school for the blind in 1907, from which he graduated 13 years later.

After an apprenticeship as a salesman, young Vic Johnson entered a school of osteopathy in Kansas City in 1920, hopeful of a career in one of the few professions then formally open to blind persons. Although he soon dropped out of the institute in disappointment, Johnson successfully resumed his training the following year -- this time at the American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville, Missouri, where he received his degree in 1925. It was there that he met a girl from his home county, Miss Xena Eads, who was attending the State Teachers' College. Following their marriage in 1923, Xena taught at a nearby high school while Victor completed his college training.

In the years that followed it was not only Victor who found himself handicapped professionally by arbitrary stereotypes. The Johnsons discovered that a virtual ban existed in the state schools against married women as teachers. For years both were forced to labor in other fields -- Xena in offices and stores, and Victor at his old trade of door-to-door sales. Finally the passage of the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act provided a new opportunity, and Johnson was among the first to establish a business in Missouri under the program. His prosperous stand is still situated in the U. S. Court and Customs House in St. Louis, where it first opened in 1937.

In 1922, Johnson joined Missouri's United Workers for the Blind, was elected president in 1927, and later represented the UWB at the state capitol during legislative sessions from 1929 through 1937.

He was again chosen to head the United Workers in 1947, seven years after it had become affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Well-Known Iowans Pass. The recent deaths of two Iowans long prominent in work with the blind have been reported to us by William Klontz, president of the Iowa Association of the Blind. Mrs. Edna Evans of Des Moines, who had worked with the youth of Iowa both blind and deaf for 30 years, passed away July 26 after a protracted illness. Mrs. Evans had traveled voluntarily throughout the state locating many who knew nothing about the schools for the blind and deaf, and starting them on their way to an education. . . . Mrs. Otis O. Rule, a veteran member of the Iowa Association, died in late July at a rest home in Union, Iowa, where she had been living for several years. Mr. Rule is mayor of Ackley, Iowa, where his wife was buried on August 1.

On the brighter side of the Iowa news, President Klontz informs us that "after several years of promises and disappointments the Center for the Blind in Des Moines has finally placed a long-distance dialing operator with the telephone company." Miss Karen Clawson, formerly a switchboard operator at the Center, started work on her new job August 1. . . . Don Walker, principal of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, was inducted into Phi Delta Kappa, international fraternity for men in education, at ceremonies held last July on the Iowa State College Campus at Cedar Falls, Iowa.

* * * * *

News from Alabama. The annual state convention of the Alabama Federation of the Blind will be held at the Jefferson Davis Hotel in Anniston, October 18-20, according to our state correspondent Barney Abbott of Montgomery. Barney writes us also that a Federation-sponsored bill to increase minimum monthly payments for blind-aid recipients to \$70 has passed the state legislature and gone to Governor Wallace for his signature. . . . Along with our correspondent, THE BLIND AMERICAN wishes to express its sympathy to Mrs. Eulasee Hardenburg, our national secretary, whose mother (Mrs. J. F. Stenson) passed away from a heart attack on August 9.

* * * * *

Discrimination Reversed. An 18-year-old Wisconsin high school student, turned down as a delegate to a make-believe Boys State because he is blind, was given a conducted tour of the real thing recently as a special guest of Governor John W. Reynolds. As reported in the Des Moines (Iowa) TRIBUNE, the governor asked Tom Teggatz, of Watertown, Wisconsin, to tour the capitol at Madison with him after seeking vainly to get the sponsoring American Legion to accept Tom in the workshop in practical government held annually at Ripon College.

* * * * *

"Save Your Vision" Week. A resolution designating the first week in March each year as "Save Your Vision Week" was introduced into Congress in early September under wide sponsorship and a high probability of passage. South Dakota's Senator George McGovern, along with others sponsoring the measure, asserted that the proposed week would focus national attention on the need for improved eye care. "There are over one-third of a million blind in the U. S. today," he pointed out, "and 40 percent of these cases result from glaucoma and cataract. Much of this could have been avoided by early detection of disease through physical and laboratory examination. It is estimated that a million Americans over 40 have glaucoma unknowingly. If neglected, glaucoma leads to permanent blindness."

* * * * *

Teams Bowl Over Maryland. Sixteen members of the Maryland Council of the Blind gathered in mid-September at one of Baltimore's bowling alleys for the purpose of forming a bowling league, according to Marjorie Flack of Baltimore (Maryland correspondent for THE BLIND AMERICAN). At least four teams are expected to make up the new league. Our reporter, relaying information from Council President Clarice Arnold, notes with pride that several new members have been added to the ranks of the MCB in recent months, all of whom are expected to take a very active part in the growing state organization.

* * * * *

South Dakota Cuts Aid. A reduction of monthly aid payments to the needy blind and other adult recipients of public assistance has been announced by the South Dakota Welfare Commission, according to the newsbulletin FROM THE STATE CAPITOLS. Attributing the cuts to rising costs in nursing home care, the Commission voted in July to decrease payments to blind, aged and disabled recipients to 90 percent of need, effective October 1, as opposed to the present 100 percent allowance.

State Welfare Director Matthew Furze reportedly declared that the increase in welfare appropriations by the 1963 Legislature was not sufficient to absorb the increase in the cost of persons needing nursing home care.

* * * * *

New Aids and Appliances Catalog. The ninth edition of the Aids and Appliances Catalog, published by the American Foundation for the Blind, is now ready for distribution in both an inkprint and a braille edition. The detailed mail-order catalog lists and describes implements specially designed for use by blind persons under such general headings as: Braille writing equipment; clocks, watches and timers; games; geographical aids (maps); kitchen aids; mathematical aids; medical aids; music aids; scales; sewing aids; thermometers; tools and instruments; travel aids; writing and drawing aids, and "miscellaneous" (not otherwise classifiable).

Requests for the catalogs should be addressed as follows:
Bureau of Special Services, American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York 11, New York.

* * * * *

Recent Appointments. Thor W. Kolle, Jr., of New York, has been elected president of National Industries for the Blind. A partner in the investment firm of Hemphill, Noyes & Co., the new president succeeds Jansen Noyes, Jr., who will continue as chairman of the NIB board of directors. . . . Thomas E. Caulfield, M.D., was appointed last June to the position of director and administrator of St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Newton, Massachusetts. Dr. Caulfield, who practices psychiatry in Boston, is a graduate of Holy Cross and Harvard Medical School, whose experience includes clinical and rehabilitation work with the blind. . . .

The Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind announces two new appointments to its Rehabilitation Center: Martha J. Ball as coordinator of specialized instruction, and Robert K. Hughes as coordinator of community mobility. . . . Wesley D. Sprague, former associate director of the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, has been chosen for the post of executive director of the New York Association for the Blind Lighthouse, left vacant by the death last March of Allan W. Sherman.

* * * * *

Save Stamps - Earn Brailier. A unique plan by which organizations of the blind may acquire a Perkins Brailier without cash outlay is described in a recent number of the VFB NEWSLETTER (Virginia Federation of the Blind). Quoting information contained in the ZIEGLER MAGAZINE, the newsletter described the S and H Green Stamp group plan as worked out by the Sperry and Hutchinson Company of New York. Members of the organization are asked to pool their S and H Green Stamps into a single fund, making it possible to acquire such items as the brailier in a relatively short time.

In order to qualify, a representative of the group must file an application with the Group Savings Director, Sperry and Hutchinson Company, 114 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, New York. He will then receive the approved application and authorization for the group members to transfer their individual stamp holdings to the organization. The Perkins Brailier, while not a regular item in the S and H catalog, is available by special arrangement. When the required number of stamp books have been accumulated and turned in to the local center for redemption, the group will receive a check for the purchase price of the brailier -- made payable to the Howe Press of Perkins School for the Blind. The brailier may then be ordered directly and is said to be available about eight weeks after ordering, according to the newsletter.

* * * * *

Missourians Set Convention. The second annual convention of the Progressive Blind of Missouri, Inc., will be held November 15 and 16 at the Aladdin Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, according to information received from Gwen Rittgers. An interesting and informative program has been planned, to be climaxed with a convention banquet at which Congressman Bolling will be guest speaker. Hotel rates are said to be reasonable, and any blind Missourian is welcome to attend, at a registration fee of one dollar per person. Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Tiny Beedle, 342 Myrtle, Kansas City, or Gwen Rittgers, 2627 Lister Avenue, Kansas City.

* * * * *

College Paper Cites Kletzing. Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind, was named among the famous alumni of the University of California YMCA, Stiles Hall, in a recent issue of the University's student newspaper, THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN. Listed among a group which includes Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, Kletzing was described as follows: "Russell Kletzing, assistant chief legal counsel for the State Division of Water Resources, president of the National Federation of the Blind, executive secretary of the California Council of the Blind, and recently cited 'For Superior

Accomplishment' with the Department of Water Resources, was student president of the University Y in 1944-45 although totally blind."

After naming other prominent citizens formerly associated with the campus youth organization, the article concluded: "Each of these noted alumni who seem, more than most men, to place a high value upon service, credit Stiles Hall with having awakened in them the motivation for constructive, progressive service to their fellow human beings."

* * * * *

D. C. Blind Hold Elections. The Capitol Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind (Washington, D. C.) held its annual election meeting on September 10, with the following chosen for Chapter offices: Vernon Butler, president; Hilda Daugherty, vice-president; Virginia Nagle, treasurer; Mildred Moseley, secretary, Margaret Keller and George Reed, board members.

* * * * *

Special Traffic Lights Not Unique. A recent news release telling of the installation of special traffic lights for the blind in the Israeli town of Gedera erroneously describes the lights as "the first of the kind anywhere." Arrangements similar to those reported have long been known to blind Americans in various localities (such as Oakland, California, in the traffic areas bordering the State Orientation Center). The news story goes on to state that Gedera is frequented by residents of the nearby Malben Village for the Blind. "About 150 blind persons have been given keys to a special box attached to light standards. When the switch in the box is turned with a key, the regularly flashing yellow warning light changes first to a steady yellow and four seconds later becomes red and a bell rings to tell the blind pedestrian he can cross safely."

* * * * *

School Eye Safety Law in Ohio. The first state law making mandatory the wearing of eye protection in schools has been passed by the State of Ohio, according to a report in the POB NEWS (official journal of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness). The state measure requires that pupils, teachers and visitors wear eye protective equipment in vocational, industrial arts, chemistry and physics laboratories and workshops.

"With the passage of this bill into law, the State of Ohio took a decisive lead over all others in preventing visual damage and destroyed

sight among school shop and science students," according to John W. Ferree, M.D., executive director of the National Society.

* * * * *

Dan Bell Picked for Award. Daniel A. Bell, of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, well-known blind entertainer, has been nominated by the American Foundation for the Blind to receive the annual Lane Bryant Award for outstanding community service. A former naval architect, Bell is currently a semi-finalist in the prize competition. "From one corner of Pennsylvania to another he travels to hospitals, nursing homes, veterans hospitals, correctional institutions, old age homes and orphanages. At each place his magical act of songs, dance and tricks leaves them happy," according to a spokesman for the AFB.

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"One of the main news items of the season," reports THE RETINA, a publication of the Federated Blind of North Dakota, "is the arrival of a new son in the home of our President and his wife, Milfred and Gloria Bakke. Raymond Curtis arrived on August 16, 1963." THE RETINA is itself a new arrival in South Dakota, making its maiden appearance in September. The journal will be published semi-annually as the official organ of the FBND (formerly the North Dakota State Federation of the Blind), which is a state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind.

* * * * *

Dollar Hike in California. An increase of one dollar a month in the cost of living for 275,000 aged and blind welfare recipients in California was recently approved by the State Social Welfare Board. Under the hike, the minimum payment for aid to the blind will be \$125 and the maximum \$175, according to FROM THE STATE CAPITALS. State law requires the board to make annual adjustments in welfare grants to blind and aged recipients based upon a cost of living index.

* * * * *

Recipe Book in Braille. Anyone interested in a braille edition of the "Birdseye Frozen Foods Recipe Book" may obtain a copy of the 38-page volume -- containing instructions for preparation of all frozen Birdseye products -- for 55¢ postage from Braille Transcribing Service, New York Association for the Blind, 110 East 60th Street, New York 22, New York. Payment should accompany the order.

(We are indebted for this item to THE OBSERVER, monthly newsletter of the Montana Association for the Blind.)

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Idaho Convention. The Gem State Blind, Inc., held its annual convention in Boise, August 23-25. Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind, was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Eleanor Bodahl, Idaho state supervisor for special education, also spoke, along with Mrs. Elsie Geddes, supervisor of special education in Boise, who described the work in integrating blind and partially sighted children into the district home schools in Boise. Recreation included a swimming trip to Givens Hot Springs, a dance on the final evening of the convention at the Boise Hotel, where convention meetings were held, and a breakfast Sunday morning sponsored by the Bench Lions of Boise, who also provided bus transportation for the group throughout the convention.

Other speakers at various meetings included Jerry Ranson, state counsellor for the rehabilitation of the blind, who discussed services available in Idaho, and state legislator, Mr. Fred Koch, of Ada County, who spoke on the work of the last Idaho legislature concerning the blind.

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FROM HERE TO EQUALITY

By Russell Kletzing

(Editor's note: Mr. Kletzing is president of the National Federation of the Blind.)

Last year the nation was presented with "a new welfare program which dramatically shifts the emphasis in public assistance" -- away from the old goals of support and relief to an "all-out effort at social rehabilitation," aimed at "restoring needy persons to self-sufficiency and independence." The name of this all-out effort is "the SERVICES program."

Those are not my words. They are the words of an official state bulletin which has just gone into effect in California. That bulletin of the welfare department proclaims a four-year plan for retooling public assistance, including aid to the blind, along lines of the so-called "services program." The California bulletin is worth studying -- for it is the prototype of 49 others already issued or still to come. No state is likely to resist the pressure to get on board this national bandwagon -- if only because the federal administration has upped its matching funds from 50 to 75 percent of the cost of its new battery of social services. Any state which turns them down loses this coveted extra money -- as well as being threatened with nonconformity and the loss of its remaining federal funds.

Let me give you a closer look at this ballyhooed bulletin, and the glittering package of welfare services which it advertises -- seemingly almost free of charge to the state. Does the gift come with strings attached? Are the contents as they are described on the label?

The answer to the last question is emphatically no. The advertising is false and misleading. The most glaring falsehood of all is that the new services program marks a "dramatic shift" in the direction of independence and self-sufficiency. The statement is false on two counts: first, because the services program does not move toward those goals but away from them -- toward the very different goals embodied in casework services. And the claim is false, second, because the purposes of independence and self-support have been right there in the federal program ever since 1956. Nothing has been added to those goals in all the years since -- least of all by the welfare program enacted last year.

The stress upon services in welfare emphasizes more than

casework: it also glorifies the caseworker. According to the state bulletin, everything is arranged to meet the worker's needs and to suit his or her convenience. Training programs for welfare personnel are expanded and liberalized. Agency facilities and methods are modernized and streamlined. Salaries and working conditions are improved, and opportunities for special studies, reports and experiments by agency staff are vastly broadened. After all this, who can doubt that the caseworker will emerge from the program of services as a well-adjusted, productive and happy person?

But whatever became of the client? Reading this bulletin and others like it, one is tempted to regard the blind, aged or disabled client as the forgotten man of welfare -- more likely to be found in the Bureau of Missing Persons than in the bureau of public assistance. However, there is an indication that California's welfare authorities are aware of this discrepancy; for tucked in between lengthy paragraphs on the new powers and responsibilities of the agency is a one-sentence paragraph headed: "Rights of Clients." Let me read it to you: "Persons coming to the county welfare department for help have a right to the use of the agency's resources in a way which best enables them to find acceptable solutions to their own problems, or which best protects their welfare when they are themselves incapable of or are otherwise unable to act on their own behalf."

That is the complete statement of the "Rights of Clients." The only right which emerges from it is the "right" to accept the services offered by the agency. Where is the right to reject those services -- or the right to accept some and decline others, without loss of the aid grant? Where is the right of confidentiality? The right of privacy? The right of immunity from unwarranted searches and seizures by roaming bands of county agents? Where is the right of discretion and of free consumption choice in the expenditure of the cash grant? Where is the right of fair hearing and appeal from adverse decisions; the right to be regarded as a client and a citizen, rather than as a patient or a criminal? There should certainly be a section on the rights of clients in such a document as this -- devoted as it is to newly expanded services and responsibilities. But there is none; there is only the lonely sentence, ludicrously mistitled "Rights of Clients," which says that clients have a right to take what is given them -- and moreover that they have a "right" to be told what is good for them when they are incapable of acting in their own interest. Of course that latter part of the sentence does not apply to all clients -- only to the incompetent ones among them, such as (presumably) those who are too old, those who are too young, those who are too disabled, and those who are too blind.

In the new welfare program of "Services Unlimited," then, the mighty presence of the caseworker is matched by the conspicuous

absence of the client. Nor should this phenomenon surprise us; for who can forget the struggle of the organized blind over the past generation -- a struggle waged against the powerful agencies, both public and private, controlling their welfare -- a struggle for a measure of freedom and a degree of expression. We might even detect in this vexed relationship of client and caseworker the operation of a kind of natural law. Since such laws generally have names, perhaps we might call it "Kletzing's Law." This law holds that the greater the power in the hands of the caseworker, the less the power in the hands of the client. The more he is directed, the less he will be self-directing. The more he is serviced, the less he is able to serve himself. It has been noted before that the tendency of casework is not only to take responsibility for the "whole" client, but to take "whole" responsibility for him. Put more bluntly, the temptation is to do everything for the client -- leaving him nothing to do for himself. In the field of welfare, surely, the old axiom holds: custodial power corrupts, and absolute custodial power corrupts absolutely. This is the historic trap of custodialism; and this is the future threat of unlimited services.

This is not, of course, to begrudge the social worker the status and stature which this profession deserves, and which has all too rarely been granted in the past. Indeed, the hope for enlightened welfare programs rests largely on the hope for enlightened workers and administrators; and this in turn depends upon the incentives of decent salary and superior training. In that sense, we may welcome the glorification of the American caseworker -- but not where it carries with it the rationalization of inadequate practices and spurious claims.

Not all of the California welfare bulletin, let me hasten to point out, is quite as bad as its miniscule section on the "rights of clients." There is rather more than a sentence -- indeed there is a whole section -- given over to "economic services." This section displays, however timidly and tentatively, a recognition of the deep economic and social problems that underly dependency in the majority of needy cases. And there is also a section on "community planning" that suggests an awareness of some of the difficulties in the client's environment which, while not of his own doing, often lead to his undoing.

The recognition of these barriers of exclusion and discrimination is there; but it is little more than a gesture. There is no inclination to grapple with the larger and tougher problems that lie outside the needy person; the inclination, as always, is to concentrate on the problems that are inside him. For these are the problems which the services of social casework are capable of dealing with. It is easier, after all, to change the client than it is to change the community. It is simpler to teach a blind man how to apply for a job than it is to teach the employer how to give it to him. It is more practical to show the client

how to spend or save his money than to show him how and where to earn it.

For this is the real problem of the blind client -- the problem of how to break through the sight barrier: that great wall of ignorance and superstition, of myth piled on myth, concerning the nature of blindness and the capacities of those who are blind. This is the iron curtain which separates the country of the blind from the land of the free. This is the obstacle course which every blind person must traverse in order to get from here to equality. And the fuel which he requires to make the trip cannot be obtained at a welfare service station. What he needs is not service with a smile, but opportunity - with incentives.

It is not my purpose here to disparage the social services which have come to loom so large in the welfare programs of the states and the nation. My purpose is only to place them in proper perspective, to cut them down to size by slicing off the layers of pure baloney in which they have been wrapped. The basic services of orientation and counseling have been with us for a generation. They have been, and they are, effective in assisting many blind persons to achieve more adequate adjustment (physical, social and economic), thus reducing the degree of their dependency. It is desirable that these services should be maintained and strengthened, as they will be through increased federal participation in their costs.

Grant all that. Grant to the services program all that it can claim for itself and for its clients -- in the way of mounting morale, mobility, and maximum mental maturity. When all of the services have been given and received -- the tests taken, the lessons learned, the interviews interviewed -- when the process is complete and the blind client steps forth from the agency, confident and competent, schooled and serviced -- ready, willing and able -- the essential problem is still there to meet him at the door, as ominous and urgent as ever. That problem is the handicap that far outweighs all others: the economic handicap of blindness. It is not to be solved by casework on someone else's part -- but only by remunerative work on his part. It is to be met not by services but by incentives; not by orientation but by opportunity. When it is not met, or is met inadequately, no amount of personal and social services can compensate for the failure. And when it is met -- when the blind person is securely on the job, self-supporting and independent -- few of those personal services are any longer needed.

The role of services in welfare aid to the blind is important but secondary to the overriding objectives of expanding opportunity and maximizing incentives to the attainment of self-support. This has always been the emphasis of the National Federation of the Blind --

the heart of our philosophy and our legislative program. Let me list for you some items which five years ago were part of our program and are today incorporated in the Social Security Act -- items which help to make of public assistance an instrument of opportunity and a path to self-sufficiency.

First, the amount of the federal contribution of matching funds to the states for Aid to the Blind has been increased by nine dollars per month. However, while this increase has been passed on to aid recipients in many states, in others it has been withheld from the blind in whole or in part. Only through continued effective action by our affiliates can we hope to implement the intention of Congress to benefit the recipient, not the state treasury, through this increased contribution.

Second, the principle of exempt earnings has been firmly and irrevocably established in federal law. Every state must now allow a blind aid recipient to keep the first \$85 he earns without reducing his aid grant. For earnings of more than \$85 per month, the grant is reduced by 50 cents for each dollar earned by the recipient until full self-support is reached. This is perhaps the most important amendment made to the public assistance program since its adoption in 1935. By establishing a definite financial incentive to achieve self-support, it goes a long way towards realizing the twin goals of independence and economic integration.

Third, federal law has been changed to give permanent protection to the Missouri and Pennsylvania programs which allow aid to the blind largely without reference to a means test. These states are setting a precedent and a pattern for a constructive grant program for the blind; and it is vital that such programs be safeguarded and extended. The Federation's current legislative program seeks to allow other states as well to follow this example without the loss of federal funds.

Fourth, a major step toward making public assistance a positive force for rehabilitation was achieved by amending federal law to provide that real and personal property and other resources needed for a program of self-support could be disregarded for a one-year period for blind recipients. Since the one-year limitation is arbitrary and unrelated to the objective to be obtained, the NFB is now seeking to have that time limit removed.

Finally, it should be remembered that the "great leap forward" in public welfare occurred, not in 1962 with the passage of the services program, but in 1956 with the Federation-sponsored amendment of the purpose clauses adding self-support and self-care to the goals of public assistance. Those affirmative objectives, however, have never been

fully implemented or recognized in the programs of the federal administration -- despite the lip service piously and persistently given to them. Today, indeed, they are more precarious than ever -- cast in jeopardy by many of the very tendencies that find expression in the fetish of personal and social services. Let us review the most threatening of these developments.

The most obvious threat is that suggested in the famous and frightening phrase of the federal administration in announcing the new welfare program: "services instead of support." The provision of services, however valuable in themselves, cannot be permitted to obscure the primary concern of public welfare -- that is, to provide a reasonably adequate grant of assistance to the needy blind recipient with which to purchase the necessities of life. The average grant across the country is today approximately \$70 -- woefully inadequate to meet ordinary and elemental needs in our modern society. Clearly, what is required in welfare for the blind is not less support but more and better support; not less relief but more adequate and constructive forms of relief.

Another threat to the proper objectives of public assistance appears in the language of the California bulletin, and of the federal communications on which it is based. It is the language of blurred boundaries and scrambled categories -- part of an effort to erase distinctions and obliterate the separate identities of established client groups. Thus it is not the needy blind who are being served, but "handicapped adults in need of protection." It is not the aged as a group, or the disabled in their turn, but "adults with potentials for self-care," to which the new services are addressed. This blatant disregard of the special needs incident to blindness, or to old age, or to permanent and total disability, bespeaks a plot to wipe out the existing separate categories in favor of the catchall system of the infamous Title XVI. Such a retrogressive effort to intermix aid to the blind with that to other groups of disadvantaged persons must be vigorously fought wherever it turns up -- and it has done so nowhere more glaringly than in the description of "services" by the California welfare department and the federal administration.

The profoundest peril of all to be found in the new accent on services is that the amount of the aid payment may be made contingent upon the blind client's acceptance of the whole battery of these services. Above all we of the organized blind must be on guard against this implicit threat to the very concept of public assistance. The acceptance of an available service must depend on only one thing -- the voluntary willingness of the client to receive the service without any strings whatever attached to his grant of aid.

There is, let us admit, a germ of truth in the fervent declaration of the California bulletin that the new program of welfare services "dramatically shifts the emphasis in public assistance." Indeed it does -- but in a direction exactly opposite to that indicated. Far from moving toward all-out efforts at economic and social rehabilitation -- far from restoring needy persons to self-sufficiency and independence -- the growing obsession with casework services of personal adjustment and orientation, of individual counseling and therapy, marks a dramatic shift away from these affirmative social goals and a potentially tragic departure from the intent and spirit of modern public welfare.

The ultimate end of public assistance, for blind persons in the productive years, is just that: and end to public assistance. The goal is not to perpetuate dependency but to eliminate it -- not merely to help people in distress but to help them out of it. And the way to do this is not to put these disadvantaged people through a thousand-mile checkup at a service station. The way to do it is to give life and substance to the high purposes written into the welfare law of the land seven years ago: to carve out paths to self-sufficiency and self-support, and to blaze new trails for blind Americans to the time-honored democratic goals of independence and equality.

PAKISTAN'S ORGANIZED BLIND CONVENT

By Dr. Isabelle Grant

(Editor's note: Dr. Grant, a member of the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind, has gained worldwide fame as the unofficial ambassador of the organized blind in the United States. She has spent more than two years among the grievously impoverished and undereducated blind people of Pakistan. Her present report describes one of the most promising results of this secular "missionary" work: the independent self-organization of the blind of Pakistan. For another view of developments in the same country, see "An Open Letter from Pakistan," elsewhere in this issue.)

Scarcely three years ago, a group of four blind Pakistanis sat on the porch of the small hostel in Lahore, where I was staying. They

discussed freely in very understandable English the plight of blind persons in their country, the poverty to which blind persons were subjected, the absolute defeatism which characterized their thinking, and the deplorable lack of opportunity for work for any of them except the handful that caned chairs in a local sheltered workshop.

Thousands and thousands throughout the country have nothing more elevating to do than beg -- for they have to eat. One of the young men on the verandah said he "wanted" to be a physiotherapist. He had read about one in the BRAILLE MONITOR. He is still at the stage of "wanting." Another of the group showed at that time all the earmarks of leadership, of willingness to do something about the fate of his fellow-blind, if only he could know what to do.

Another of these men was in the workshop with some 30 years of chair-caning behind him; he wondered why young, inexperienced sighted men who knew nothing about blindness and were uninterested in what is called blind welfare, occupied positions superior to his, with no hope of his ever moving up. For he was blind. That was the reason for his being retained at the lowest echelon, while the sighted young man, interested only in the "job," was handed the promotions, the increase of salary, and the prestige. One had self-respect thrust upon him -- and the other had his drained from him.

The only answer was to make known their plight, to speak out, to let their own voices be heard. Thus was born the Pakistan Association of the Blind. The NFB convention in Philadelphia was indeed vastly different in many ways, but like in spirit. The PAB convention was held on Sunday, September 22, 1963, in the Barkat Ali Islamia Building, Sherenwala Gate -- an old building in the economically poorer quarter of the City of Lahore.

The meeting was convened at 2:00 P.M. by the President, Mr. Bakhar Shah, who called upon the General Secretary, Mr. Ishfaq Siddiqi, to take charge as program chairman. The first item of business was the reading and adoption of five resolutions, already passed by the Executive Committee, and now presented for approval to the "General Body." The resolutions covered pleas for education of blind children, suggested plans for employment, improvement and extension of training centers for post-school age blind persons, urging parents of blind children to seek education for their children and to grant to these children their rights as children.

Each one of the topics bespoke the cruel situation, the hopeless captivity to which the majority of their fellow-blind are subjected. At the convention their voice was heard, and their desires voted upon by

each person present. Blind persons came from Rawalpindi, almost 200 miles away; from Bahawalpur, almost 400 miles distant, and from intervening towns and villages. All hundred of them came at their own expense, journeying many weary hours in the dusty, hot, heavily congest third-class compartments of the trains.

Each person from out of the city, and many of the city dwellers as well, had his chance to address the conclave from the floor. No one seemed to become tired -- neither speaker nor listener. Repetition could not be avoided, but the freshness of the individual viewpoint lent variation to the speeches. The convention, I understand, closed at 11:30 P.M. I was able to hold out only until 7:30 P.M. I was also aware of the fact that a woman travelling alone at night in this part of the world is courting trouble. All speeches were in Urdu, and likewise all questions, comments, and remarks. Tea was due to be served at four P.M. But the electric current refused to function, so tea came at six. I am sure I was the only one upset by this delay, for the speeches went on undisturbed, in spite of the oppressive heat and humidity. The whole place was in darkness, but that did not disturb even the sighted assistant -- who, with a candle to help him, showed me to the door when I felt I had to leave.

The piece de resistance among the speeches was that of the President, Mr. Bakar Shah. His fifty-minute oration was listened to with dignity, solemnity, and genuine warmth of applause. Afraid to risk my somewhat academic Urdu, I ventured my remarks in English, calling on the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Siddiqi, to interpret. My reference to the NFB, to greetings from the organized blind of my country, and my report on the Foreign Aid Fund inaugurated by the NFB were kindly received; and I am instructed to extend to all of you their thanks and appreciation.

My thoughts went back to our type of delegate representation, to the orderly and logical arrangement of our programs. At this stage, these simply don't fit into the environment here. The "polish" will come in due time. But the sincerity of purpose was obvious, as was the satisfaction of being able to speak out for themselves, of feeling their own importance -- of feeling that after all they counted. Much was said respectfully, and sincerely, regarding agencies for the blind in Pakistan, of the facility with which these organizations collect money from the public in the name of the blind, of the inadequate representation of the organized blind on these organizations -- all of it spoken with a complete lack of bitterness, with sincerity, and with fervent offers of cooperation and friendship. It was a truly inspiring symposium.

It is difficult to realize that the fact of illiteracy, of not being able to read or write, does not affect a free flow of oratory. It is also difficult to realize that reading material is simply not available, when we in other countries take for granted our books on science, politics, psychology, history -- on every subject we can think of -- our talking books, our tapes, and the inkprint books that can be read to us. The little information that a small minority received in school is passed on by word of mouth, vicariously. In a gigantic problem of this nature, one can only begin at the beginning and attempt to see that the next generation is provided with education -- and let time take care of the rest. That beginning, miserably small though it is, has now been made.

Convention PAB was a far, far cry from convention NFB at Philadelphia. NFB members are wonderfully aware of existing conditions elsewhere -- for example in Pakistan -- and the Pakistani blind stretch out the hand of gratitude and friendship to their more fortunate American fellow-blind. They are now calling for a world federation of the blind where their voices may be heard, so that the world over the door of opportunity may be opened to all, and the door of education opened to blind children.

TENBROEK LEAVES CALIFORNIA WELFARE BOARD

Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, for the last 13 years a member of the California State Social Welfare Board and for the last three years its chairman, resigned from his position on October 10.

The announcement of Dr. tenBroek's resignation was made in Washington, D.C., by California Governor Edmund G. Brown. The Governor said he accepted the resignation "only on the understanding that Professor tenBroek would be available for appointment to some other position where the state can benefit from his rare qualities." The nature of the new appointment was not specified.

Professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. tenBroek was the founder of the National Federation of the Blind and its president for 21 years until 1961. He has been president of the American Brotherhood for the Blind since 1945.

Dr. tenBroek was first appointed to the State Social Welfare Board in 1950 by Governor Earl Warren (now Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court). He was subsequently reappointed three times; was unanimously elected chairman by his fellow board members in 1960, and re-elected in 1961 and 1962.

Among the many prominent public officials and welfare authorities who have recognized Dr. tenBroek's leadership and contribution in this field is Chief Justice Warren. Referring to "his immeasurable contribution and fine achievements in social welfare," Warren has said that "we are all deeply indebted to Dr. tenBroek's imagination and courage which has meant so much to the progress of our welfare programs."

Dr. Charles I. Schottland, former United States Commissioner of Social Security and presently dean of Brandeis University's graduate school of social welfare, has observed of Dr. tenBroek that he "occupies a permanent place among the pioneers of the social welfare field," adding: "I can personally testify to the fact that many advances nationally and in the State of California were the direct results of his vision, leadership, and penetrating and critical analysis of the situation."

A similar tribute to Dr. tenBroek's "deep influence on social welfare thinking" has been expressed by Ruth Chance, director of the Rosenberg Foundation, who singles out his "great quality as a human being" as "the essential fact against which his other remarkable gifts gain their special stature."

Dr. tenBroek's speeches and writings in the field of welfare have received numerous expressions of appreciation from officials of the National Urban League and its city affiliates across the country; and have been the subject of frequent praise from scholars in social welfare such as Dean Milton Chernin of the University of California's School of Social Welfare, who has written of his "extraordinary contributions" as "an outstanding public welfare official."

ROUNDUP OF STATE CONVENTIONS

The Phoenix Club of the Blind was host to the 14th annual convention of the Arizona Federation of the Blind held at the Porterhouse Motel October 19-20, 1963. James Fall was re-elected as president, and other officers chosen were: first vice-president, Margaret Pekarek; second vice-president, Mrs. Ewald Smith; secretary, Mrs. Maria Baumann, and treasurer, Gordon Perrine.

Convention highlights included three panel discussions on economic problems and goals of the blind, two of which were moderated by state legislators. An important member of two panels was Kenneth Jernigan, NFB first vice-president and director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, who also gave the major banquet address.

Alabama Federation of the Blind

Calvin Wooten was elected to the presidency of the Alabama Federation at its annual convention held at Anniston, October 18-20. In one of the AFB's most successful meetings of recent years, members were informed of the highly significant liberalization of the state's blind aid program which was enacted this year by the Legislature.

Other officers named to key posts were: Rogers Smith, first vice-president; Eleanor Hardenberg, second vice-president; Barney Abbott, secretary, and Burlie Dutton, treasurer.

Associated Blind of Massachusetts

The convention of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, held in Springfield the first weekend in October featured the theme of public relations. NFB president, Russell Kletzing, was the banquet speaker on the subject "From Here to Equality." He reviewed the dangers that are becoming evident in the services program now being installed under new federal laws. Another feature of the convention was the panel discussion on the responsibilities of the individual blind person in public relations. Their president, Manuel Rubin, was re-elected for another term of office.

Colorado Federation of the Blind

The Colorado convention, held in Denver on the last weekend in October, also took as its theme the subject of public relations. The program included discussion of Social Security benefits by Paul Wooden of the Social Security office and a panel discussion on the Responsibilities of Blind Persons in Public Relations.

Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation of the Blind, spoke at the Saturday night banquet attended by more than 100 persons. The Federation voted a \$50.00 grant to THE BLIND AMERICAN and presented a \$100.00 grant to the Denver Optometric Center, which furnishes free optometric service for those who are in need. Cliff Jensen was re-elected president and was elected as the delegate to the Phoenix convention.

California Council of the Blind

The Fall 1963 convention of the California Council of the Blind was held October 18-20 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, with the major emphasis of talks and discussions focused upon the recent substantial reorganization of state welfare services. Featured speaker at the convention banquet was Assemblyman Phillip Burton of San Francisco, who presented an inspiring talk on progress in social welfare. Another important event was an address by Russell Kletzing, president of the National Federation, who spoke on the subject: "From Here to Equality." Other prominent speakers included Perry Sundquist, chief of the state's division for the blind; Martin J. Logan of the U.S. Small Business Administration, and Larry Tate, field representative of the Social Security Administration.

Nevada Federation of the Blind

Mrs. Audrey Bascom was unanimously re-elected president at the annual convention of the Nevada Federation of the Blind held in Ely, Nevada, October 11-13. Major banquet speaker, and an active participant throughout the sessions, was Perry Sundquist, head of California's aid-to-the-blind program and a former president of the National Federation of the Blind.

The convention approved a resolution calling for the removal of the Bureau of Services to the Blind from the jurisdiction of the social welfare agency and placing it directly under authority of the new state Agency of Health and Welfare.

New Hampshire Federation of the Blind

The sixth annual convention of the New Hampshire organized blind met on October 5 in the Junior High School auditorium at Nashua. The convention opened with the election of Alfred Beckwith to fill an executive committee vacancy caused by the death of John Jordan. The National Federation's Washington representative, John F. Nagle, spoke thoughtfully on the subject of sheltered workshops, and later in the day delivered the main address at the convention banquet.

The purpose and future of public welfare was the subject of a spirited panel discussion featuring Nagle along with Charles E. Murphy, state welfare director; Alfred A. Beckwith, a vending stand operator, and Stephen Buckley, a high school counselor. In other action, the convention selected Portsmouth as the site of its 1964 meeting.

Ohio Council of the Blind

Toledo was the site of the 17th annual convention of the Ohio Council of the Blind, with 21 affiliates officially represented during the three-day sessions beginning October 18. The chief banquet speaker was retiring president Clyde E. Ross, who has led the state group for the past 14 years. Replacing him as president will be George Bonsky, of Canton. Other officers newly elected are: first vice-president, William Wells, Columbus; second vice-president, Alfonso Smith, Youngstown; recording secretary, Mrs. Mary Eiche, Lima; treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Brust, Mansfield, and executive secretary, William Dressel, Cincinnati.

South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind

The organized blind of the Aurora Club held an impressive two-day convention on the weekend of September 28 and 29, at the Wade Hampton Hotel in Columbia. Some 140 persons attended the climactic banquet to hear a stirring address by Kenneth Jernigan, the NFB's first vice-president and director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind. The Donald C. Capps Award for outstanding contributions by a blind person to his fellow-blind was presented to Marshall Tucker, Aurora board member. Mr. Tucker also was elected to serve out the one-year unexpired term of state secretary, with Mrs. Sue Moore of Charleston and Mrs. Fair Gallman of Spartanburg being elected to the board of directors. The convention was highlighted by several speeches on the part of prominent individuals in the fields of education, employment and social welfare.

RHETORIC IN THE NAME OF REHABILITATION

By Stanley Oliver

(Editor's note: The author is a member of the board of the Michigan Council of the Blind and editor of its magazine, THE EYE -

OPENER. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of the Blind.)

In the next few months, Michigan will undergo a reorganization of some 125 state agencies, boards, commissions and institutions which in conformity with the newly adopted constitution will be dressed down to a little over a score. Petition has been made by the Michigan Council of the Blind to be heard at an appropriate level of government with respect to the present state Division of Services for the Blind.

The federal record currently shows Michigan as the 50th state in per capita claims for rehabilitation funds. Despite this remarkable departmental economy, the director annually processes a piece of whimsical fiction in the form of the annual report. A few years ago, when inquiry was made of the Detroit area office vocational counsellor for a very general account of placement activity, this was bluntly declined. When inquiry was made of the director, this also brought forth no information.

On the request finally of Representative Mahoney, a hearing was held before a joint Senate and House committee, specifically on state licensing of sales agencies in blind products; and during this hearing a direct request was made of the state director of the Department of Social Welfare. The freeze on information was then eased, and in a few days those of us who are blind and with an interest in the matter had opportunity to examine 57 program closure titles covering a 17-month period for the Detroit metropolitan area.

It became at once apparent why even the most innocuous data was being denied. Some of the exotic program closures which came to light included the following: A considerable number of door-to-door salesmen -- at a time when one of the blind jobbers was offering a \$25 premium to any blind salesman who could come up with a new recruit to add to his crew organization, with this jobber handling all "training" of such people. A number of women were listed as "home-makers," and this was never clearly explained; it was our conclusion that this term denoted a blind woman who became married, and during this process was somehow in contact with the rehabilitation office.

Baby sitter, parakeet breeder, canary salesman, were among titles that aroused speculation. One of the empty titles listed as a rehabilitation closure was that of a blind man well known to many of us, as a "vending machine operator." He was placed in charge of a dozen Kleenex machines located in about a dozen sites, driven around by his sighted wife in their car. After a six-week service stint he was

able to amass the grand profit of sixty cents, or ten cents a week. His program closure appears as blandly among the 57 as any other.

It is obvious how an agency cabal can effect hoaxes and keep them hidden from scrutiny by those with a concern in real rehabilitation and real earning opportunities. Some two years ago this writer, at a scheduled meeting of the advisory board to the state agency, proposed that the duties of such a board could best be effected by a carefully detailed review of the departmental budget before this was processed up to the welfare department and eventually to the Legislature. The thought that organizations of blind people, among others, would have opportunity to consider services, staff, and funds, and then bring back recommendations to a meeting of this advisory board, left the director speechless. . . . The director was so impressed by the value of this meeting that it slipped his mind to call another for two years.

The so-called advisory board had been used by the director as a meaningless forum on the meager activities that he would occasionally tackle. Of about 35 vending stands, approximately nine operators receive supplementary welfare help. A decision was made some years ago exempted the latter from set aside taxes. The 1961 survey of the American Foundation covering primarily Detroit pointed out gross shortcomings, among which were unqualified staff members. One of the AFB's conclusions was that the heavy industrialization should account for a few hundred real jobs, whereas perhaps twelve blind men are now employed in the auto and related industrial trades.

When an agency exists primarily for the benefit of its staff, it is important that its true record be made as public as possible. An agency which is never above playing footsie with minority elements in the blind population in order to keep a facade of moral virtue merits condemnation. It is quite possible to have a job stake, a prestige stake, or a power stake in the continued dependency of blind men and women.

THE WAGES OF HATE

(Editor's note: The following editorial by Helen B. Anthony first appeared in the October, 1963, issue of THE WHITE CANE, official magazine of the Washington State Association of the Blind, Inc.,

an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. Mrs. Anthony is the magazine's managing editor.)

Here is a little story, reproduced on TV's "Day in Court." The editorializing is your editor's.

A well-dressed mature-looking woman sat in a city bus. She hated Negroes, blind persons and dogs.

A well-dressed young man entered the bus. He was dark-skinned, he was blind, he had a dog guide.

Someone directed him to a seat beside the woman. He did not know if this was the only empty one or not, because he could not see.

The woman protested to the driver that she was afraid of dogs. She demanded that the man with the dog get off the bus.

The driver explained that both man and dog were entitled to ride the bus, but, upon her insistence, he asked the man to muzzle the dog.

Now, the dog was not used to a muzzle; he had been taught to function without a muzzle. Nevertheless, a muzzle was attached to his harness and the blind man muzzled the dog.

The woman kept complaining about the man sitting next to her. Her voice was very angry and the dog was very unhappy. He fretted the muzzle off.

The woman kicked the dog. The dog bit the woman.

The blind man was taken to court. He was a musician on the way to perform at a radio station. By the delay he missed his engagement for which he was to have been paid a professional fee.

The judge represented Justice.

God or Nature or Fate had decreed that the young man was non-white at birth . . . decreed that through no will of his own he had become blind . . . that the dog guide was trained to protect his master.

God or Nature or Fate had decreed that this woman, by accident of birth, was white and, by good fortune, had retained her sight. It was not decreed, however, that this would give her the right to lord it over non-whites, blind persons or faithful dogs.

The judge found for the defendant, costs to the plaintiff.

The woman's parting shot was: "Do I have to take all this, just because he's BLIND! "

The moral of this is that people can be quite nasty creatures even though they may be white, sighted and, by the grace of God or Nature or Fate, bearing the semblance of a human being.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM PAKISTAN

By Ishfaq Siddiqi

(Editor's note: Mr. Siddiqi is General Secretary of the Pakistan Association of the Blind -- whose recent convention is described in a separate article above by Dr. Isabelle Grant. Himself blind, Mr. Siddiqi won a gold medal last year for his sales achievements as an insurance agent for a Pakistan firm. His article was written expressly for THE BLIND AMERICAN.)

Dear Sir:

I am sure that our blind American friends would like to know and understand the struggle of the blind Pakistanis which has culminated in the establishment of the Pakistan Association of the Blind -- in order for us to go ahead with unity, with faith in the justness of our cause and the achievement of our ultimate goal of complete integration into society.

We are highly appreciative of and indebted to that esteemed lady, Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant, who woke us from age-old slumber and infused an unforeseen vigour amongst the blind here through her indefatigable zeal and fervor. But for her ceaseless efforts the establishment of the Pakistan Association would have been nothing more than a dream.

The PAB was established on the principle that blind people themselves must unite and assume leadership in solving their problems -- and that they, as citizens of Pakistan, are entitled to speak through their

own representative organization.

The Pakistan Association of the Blind believes that: (a) Blind people are essentially normal people. Blindness is not a psychological or mental handicap but it is merely a physical nuisance. (b) All discriminations based upon the false assumption that blind people are somehow different from the sighted people must be abolished and equality of opportunities must be made available to the blind. (c) Because of their personal experience with blindness blind people are best qualified to lead the way in solving their own problems. (d) The general public, agencies, associations and institutions should be made aware of those problems and should be asked to participate in their solution. It is on these fundamentals that the Pakistan Association of the Blind predicates its philosophy.

In a bid to strike at the very roots of the appalling conditions of the blind, we have undertaken on a humble scale the following programs:

1. An evening education centre for the adult blind -- to cast aside the thick folds of illiteracy and ignorance, and to change their outlook on life.

2. Facilities for learning typewriting, in order to make blind persons communicable with the sighted members of society.

3. Provision of free reader service to blind students.

Definite plans are in hand to start a library and an information bureau. Besides this we are constantly endeavoring to increase the amount and variety of occupations for the blind, and to ensure that blind workers receive fair rates of remuneration.

We are grateful to our blind American friends for the assistance and help which has been and is made available to us for the implementation of our programs; and we earnestly hope that a greater flow of equipment, books, periodicals and paper will be maintained.

We bow our heads to Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, the greatest blind person of this century, in appreciation of his valuable contribution to the welfare of blind Americans in particular and to the blind people the world over in general. May he live long and guide the destiny of the blind.

With best wishes and sincere regards to all blind Americans from the blind Pakistanis.

Yours faithfully,

Ishfaq Siddiqi,
General Secretary
Pakistan Association of the Blind
(West Wing) Lahore

PASSING OF TWO FEDERATIONISTS MOURNED

By Russell Kletzing

(Editor's note: Mr. Kletzing is president of the National Federation of the Blind.)

Within a few weeks, two of the staunchest Federationists have been taken by death -- John Cooley and Nathan Nadelman. Both were of the hard-working, soft-spoken type that make up the backbone of every vigorous organization.

John Cooley was a resident of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and served for several terms as president of the Spartanburg Chapter of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind. He had also served as first vice-president of the state organization and was its secretary at the time of his death. His chairmanship of several of the state White Cane Week drives contributed to its financial stability. He is, however, best known in South Carolina for his authorship of the pamphlet "What Is The South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind." Circulation of this pamphlet to the members of the Legislature is credited with making possible many of the legislative successes that have been scored by the Club. John was also a member of the delegation to the national convention on many occasions and he will be remembered by the many Federationists who made his acquaintance there.

On the eve of the annual convention of the Associated Blind of

Massachusetts that he loved so dearly, Nathan Nadelman was also taken by death. Nathan's record for hard work was unexcelled by any Federationist. No task was too large or too small for him to tackle. He had served with distinction as the corresponding secretary of the ABM, and was slated to be chairman of its resolutions committee at the convention. He had also been chairman of its White Cane Week fund raising activities in prior years. Utilizing the talent of Charles Little, the resolutions committee of the ABM drafted, and the convention adopted, a stirring, heartfelt resolution of tribute to Nathan and sympathy for his family.

Both of these lost Federationists will be sorely missed in their state organizations and in national activities.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM THE STATES

Among the highlights of recent legislative activity affecting the blind within the states are the following developments:

In Illinois, state services for the visually handicapped have been revised, with a new section added to the program authorizing the conduct of community service programs for the visually handicapped apart from those provided in the residential training institute.

Connecticut has seen the passage of a bill to prohibit any denial of access to any public mode of transportation or public place of accommodation to a blind person accompanied by a guide dog.

Missouri has increased maximum payments for blind-aid recipients to \$75 per month. At the same time, a bill which would have extended the vendor plan for medical care to the needy blind was not acted on by a committee of the Legislature.

The Oregon Legislature lined up with the federal law in ruling that the earnings of blind recipients up to \$85 plus half of additional earnings are to be disregarded in determining need. But the state's lawmakers defeated other bills which would have deleted relative responsibility and ended residence requirements for the needy blind.

An appropriation has been authorized in Vermont providing

for the position of Educational Counselor for the Blind in order to facilitate individual plans for each visually handicapped child.

In Ohio and North Dakota, additional income and resources exemptions have been approved for blind clients in compliance with federal requirements. On the other hand, Wyoming has failed to pass legislation which would increase the amount of exempt income for recipients of aid to the blind.

REPORT ON AMERICAN COUNCIL CONVENTION

By R. L. Thompson

(Editor's note: The following report on the 1963 convention of the American Council of the Blind is reprinted from the September issue of the FLORIDA WHITE CANE BULLETIN, a quarterly publication of the Florida Federation of the Blind. Mr. Thompson is president of the Florida Federation and a member of the American Council of the Blind.)

I left Tuesday, July 16 and returned home Tuesday, July 23. Herthel Dunnigan was the only other FFB member able to attend. About 82 registered at the convention in Chicago. About 60 attended the Saturday evening banquet. Colonel Baker of Canada spoke at the banquet, and Herthel and I agree that his appearance and talk was the most inspiring event of the convention. Most of the speakers were from agencies such as the American Foundation, Vocational Rehabilitation Service or from some state agency for or of the blind. They were very sincere and earnest, but most repeated the same phrases and things we all hear each time speeches are heard from these sources. Illinois is now employing a Coordinator of Services for the Blind, and Mr. Dickinson in charge of this work spoke to us. The purpose is to cut down on duplication of services to the blind and to direct expenditures of funds and efforts to areas of needed services.

Jerry Knowler received the first Ambassador Award: She is a speech therapist from Kansas and is blind. She thanked us for the award and later in the convention was elected to the ACB Publications Board.

A number of leaders among the blind were there: Clyde Ross of Ohio, Durward McDaniel of Oklahoma, Alma and Jack Murphy of Missouri, George Card of Wisconsin. Outstanding persons such as our Al Drake, Marie Boring of North Carolina and George Howeller of Oregon were not able to be at the convention.

In 1964 the convention is to be in Rochester, New York, where Mary Jane Hills lives. She was present at the convention and recommended shifting the convention out of New York City where it was scheduled because of the high cost there. The convention voted to hold the meeting in 1965 in Louisville, Kentucky. . . .

There were ten Constitution and By-Laws changes presented, and several were accepted. Our suggestions were not accepted. Too many people fear we will lose agency people who are members, and agency people who are members want to hold elective office. One concession was made, though. The type of employment and the employer of a person seeking office will have to be announced to the convention by the chair or nominating committee.

Eleven resolutions concerning ACB position on needed national legislation were presented and accepted. I think the organization is doing very well considering it is only two years old. I would say that this year's convention was about the same as that in St. Louis except that the Illinois people did not swell the numbers by attending, and the Missouri people did last year. I appreciated the opportunity to attend, and will have more comments at the time of our next board meeting.

THE VOICE BETWEEN STATION BREAKS

(Editor's note: The following article is reprinted in condensed form from the October, 1963, issue of PERFORMANCE: THE STORY OF THE HANDICAPPED, a monthly publication of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.)

Outside the walls of Washington's Radio Station WRC, where Ed Walker is a popular radio voice heard by hundreds of thousands, very few listeners realize that he has been totally blind since birth.

Little wonder that Ed is always being called upon to participate in gatherings and goings-on around Washington. Since his first WRC show in 1955; when a critic referred to him as "the most refreshing new radio personality to be uncovered in Washington this year," Ed Walker's wealth of talent has attracted a large and faithful audience.

Currently his broadcast day consists of two 2-hour shows, "Man About Music" in the mornings and "Time for Music" in the afternoons. His working day stretches out to about 9 hours, however, as he translates weather, news, and commercial announcements into Braille notes, and plans his next day's shows.

The Braille typewriter is standard equipment near his microphone and is in constant use while the records are spinning. Close by is a precision clock with touchable dials that enables him to keep up a split-second schedule in unison with his engineer. And also within reach is a telephone--his only intimate contact with the world outside his heavy glass studio.

One would imagine that mike fright would be a natural reaction in such a situation: The realization that one is alone in a radio booth, speaking glibly and conversationally from Braille notes, saying things that will be heard by thousands. And all around, darkness. Added to this is the compulsion in a highly competitive business to be good; in fact, better than the next. For WRC is expected to be a standard bearer; it is one of five stations throughout the country which is owned and operated by the National Broadcasting Company.

Only once can Ed Walker remember being momentarily unnerved by the enormous significance of his position. That was in the Fall of 1955 when he first moved over to NBC from a suburban local station. Just before his first words he heard the three notes of the musical chime which is the network's audible symbol. The sound seemed to swell into a crescendo of excitement and triumph and he had to work fast to untie his vocal chords to meet his engineer's signal.

And the National Broadcasting Company has been happy with Ed Walker. "Sure, they took a chance," Ed admits; "but I guess I've proved myself." He likes the fact that he receives no special consideration, even though he has to work longer hours than the other musicasters, translating all his copy into his Braille notebook. "I'm just as liable for criticism as anyone else," he states seriously; then, with a chuckle, adds, "and I sure get my share of it."

One gathers the impression that Ed Walker, his blindness notwithstanding, is a very perceptive person.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Owens Heads Trenton Group. Robert H. Owens was elected to a fourth consecutive term as president of the Trenton Association of the Blind at the group's October meeting. Other officers chosen were: vice president, Mrs. Marie Sullivan; recording secretary, Mrs. Mildred Tremple; treasurer, Norbert Cifelli, and corresponding secretary, Mrs. James Longbine. President Owens is a founder and officer of the Associated Blind of New Jersey, and a former secretary-treasurer of New Jersey Organizations of the Blind.

* * * * *

Blind Kentuckian Appointed. David Eugene Murrell, 26-year-old blind Kentuckian, was recently appointed assistant attorney general for the state shortly after his graduation from law school and admission to legal practice, according to an Associated Press dispatch published in the OAKLAND (California) TRIBUNE.

The article stated that Murrell's desire to complete law school had been motivated by his understanding of how difficult it is for blind persons to get ahead. "In the past, there has been no middle class for the blind. They're either at the top or the bottom. And to a great extent, that's true today," he was quoted as declaring. Murrell was said to have landed his present appointment by virtue of being the "best-qualified applicant" available for the post.

* * * * *

Boston Blind Group Featured. The numerous activities of the Associated Blind of Greater Boston, parent chapter of the statewide Associated Blind of Massachusetts, were prominently featured in an article published by the BOSTON SUNDAY HERALD (October 20, 1963). Noting that during October the nation's blind were marking the 33rd anniversary of the White Cane, "their symbol of independence in a sighted world," the newspaper cited several of the programs and services offered to the blind by the Boston group -- "such as their aid last week in keeping an elderly and blind South End woman in the rest home she had lived in for 25 years.

"Or the woman who came in recently and asked Charles W. Little [legislative chairman of the state ABM] if he would write a letter in braille to a blind student in Brazil. He was happy to oblige," the article said.

"To some, blindness is a definite handicap, but to Edward

Connelly, second vice president of ABGB, it can provoke a laugh. Connelly, a cook employed by the state, said he was on the job for six months before his boss realized he was legally blind. He has but a tiny fraction of normal sight," the newspaper reported.

* * * * *

Virginia Chapter Holds Election. The Winchester Association of the Blind, a chapter of the Virginia Federation, held its annual election in midsummer, with the following officers named: president, Mrs. Robert Taggart; vice president, Grant Affleck; treasurer, Miss Frances Ebert; recording secretary, Mrs. Lester Elliott, and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Carl W. Lundmark. . . . At its meeting on September 25, the Winchester chapter heard informative talks from four representatives of the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, who emphasized state programs of vocational rehabilitation and home teacher training.

* * * * *

Maryland White Cane Campaign. A proclamation by Maryland Governor Tawes naming October 15 as "White Cane Safety Day" in the state stimulated a concerted drive by the Maryland Council of the Blind to gain maximum publicity for the event. The Council's White Cane Committee contacted the mayor of Baltimore, who agreed to proclaim the date as official White Cane Safety Day in the city as well. Meanwhile, Mrs. Clarice Arnold, president of the Maryland Council, along with other officers and members contacted newspapers, radio and TV stations with requests for publicity concerning the event and the blind generally. Mrs. Arnold reports that the response of the media was gratifying during the weeks immediately preceding the official day.

* * * * *

Father Forster Receives Missal. Father Keith Forster, O. F. M., blind Franciscan ordained two years ago at Mission Santa Barbara, now is the possessor of a Roman Missal in braille. It is a gift from the Braille Service Guild of Los Angeles. The Latin missal, consisting of more than 200 plastic pages, took a month to transcribe and proof-read after it had been requested by Father Forster through the Catholic Guild of the Blind of Los Angeles. An active participant in the trans- action was Anthony Mannino, Catholic Guild leader and executive secre- tary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind.

* * * * *

News from North Dakota. Our correspondent in the upper of the two Dakotas, Melvin Ekberg, writes from Fargo that a national convention of masseurs was held there during the summer with Milfred Bakke, president of the Federated Blind of North Dakota, in charge of arrangements. "He must have done a good job, too, according to reports. Four of our members are masseurs, three of them blind; and they were all in attendance at the meeting," Mr. Ekberg notes.

* * * * *

New Officers in Omaha. Edward Collins and Henry Vetter were chosen vice-president and second vice-president, respectively, by the Omaha Association of the Blind at a special election held last summer to fill two vacancies in the Association's leadership. One vacancy was occasioned by the illness and subsequent death of Delton Boyer, former second vice-president; the other arose when Ralph Ferguson resigned his vice-presidency in order to move to Des Moines to enter training at the famed Iowa Center. . . . Our loyal correspondent for the Nebraska Federation of the Blind, Maxine Pugh, has also advised us that students at the state school for the visually handicapped went to school this Fall to brand new classrooms -- a welcome addition to the institution which balances the recent construction of a new school dormitory.

* * * * *

AAIB Workshop Set. The American Association of Instructors of the Blind science workshop is planning a regional meeting November 8 and 9 in St. Louis, Missouri, at the same time that the National Science Teachers Association will be holding its own regional meeting there. The Missouri School for the Blind has offered to accommodate the people attending this special regional workshop at very reasonable rates, according to an announcement of the AAIB.

* * * * *

Sister Benigna Honored. Fordham University has bestowed an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters upon Sister M. Benigna, O.P., for her work with blind children. She has been teaching and advising in the field for nearly 60 years, according to an item in THE NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND. In 1904 she was instrumental in the establishment of New York's first Catholic school for the blind, which later became the Lavelle School for the Blind.

* * * * *

Transportation Tribulations. The following is an excerpt from an editorial article by Marcia J. Gentzler, editor of HANDICAPTION, a regular publication of the Federation of the Handicapped, with headquarters in New Orleans. The article appeared in the journal's October, 1963, issue.

"For over 30 years, transportation has been supplied to some of our blind going to and from their place of employment. Until seven years ago the police were doing it, and then the City of New Orleans signed a contract with a taxi company to handle it.

"In May the City Council decided to cancel out, and let the Welfare Department take over. The Department says the blind should transport themselves, which in a city of this size is very nearly impossible for some. . . .

"In order that these workers may continue working, the Blind Men's Business Association, Inc., formed a transportation committee, composed of sighted citizens, to try to solve their dilemma. Through contributions and a rodeo . . . transportation is being supplied, but this is not the answer to the problem. It still lies with politicians who make pre-election promises and then conveniently forget them, once they are in office."

* * * * *

Charge Misuse of Welfare Funds. The Oklahoma League of Senior Citizens has demanded an investigation of the Department of H.E.W. "to find out why federal funds earmarked for Oklahoma's aged, blind and disabled are being 'shortchanged' by officials," according to a report in the SENIOR CITIZENS SENTINEL, a monthly newspaper published by the National League of Senior Citizens.

"The State League, formerly the Oklahoma Welfare Federation, leveled the charge during its statewide convention, while simultaneously calling for sweeping changes to liberalize and bring up to date the state's backward social welfare laws which lag far behind many other states," the newspaper reported.

The League's convention was said to have adopted a resolution declaring that federal and state funds intended for welfare purposes have been "co-mingled" in the Oklahoma Welfare fund and "diverted for other state purposes contrary to federal law."

Dr. F. G. Conley, League chairman, was quoted as declaring: "It would appear that State Director Lloyd E. Rader does not advise

the State Legislature as to the availability of federal benefits under the Public Assistance Act."

* * * * *

Inventor's Idea Holds Water. Jules Martin of Honolulu, an active participant in Hawaii's organized blind movement, is the inventor of a unique emergency water system, according to an item in the Honolulu ADVERTISER. The idea reportedly came to him five years ago when he heard a Civil Defense program stressing the importance of keeping containers of fresh water in homes for emergency use.

He began thinking of how fresh water might be made available automatically for those unlikely to plan ahead, and last July was issued a patent for an emergency tank attachable in any building having a regular water system, the article said. The tank is hitched right into the system, in such a way that the water not only passes through the tank but is completely revolved in the process, assuring constant freshness. If the water line should break or water become shut off, the tank automatically closes itself, sealing fresh water inside.

Martin, blinded in 1934 in a mine explosion, presently is helping train seeing-eye dogs for a firm called Eyes of the Pacific.

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N. F. B. LOOKS TO '64 CONVENTION

(Editor's note: The following is an advance convention bulletin released to members and friends of the National Federation of the Blind by President Russell Kletzing.)

Come one, come all! The 1964 Convention of the National Federation of the Blind at Phoenix, Arizona, promises to be one of the best in the history of the organization. Read the following facts and you will see why we think so.

Hotel. The Convention will be headquartered at Phoenix's finest hotel--the Westward Ho. The opening session starts at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning, June 30, and the final adjournment is at 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon, July 3. The Westward Ho is a luxury hotel in every sense of the word--large swimming pool open to all delegates without charge, food and bar service available right at the pool (simply use the poolside phone and call in your order); big enclosed patio, available at all times, palm trees and other tropical plants; western architecture, colonnades and balconies; sun decks on the roof, just off the eleventh floor, and air conditioning on the inside from top to bottom.

In the lobby of the hotel, a fabulous specialty shop called the Buttery is located. Purchase delicacies for yourself or friends--cactus marmalade, pomegranate jelly, wild orange preserves, date conserve, prickly pear jelly, almost every kind of imported and domestic liqueur, a truly magnificent collection of imported teas and coffees, a large variety of imported chocolates and pastries. . . .

Also, shop for jewelry or other items right in the lobby of the hotel. Come early or stay after the convention and see some of the Arizona sights. A tour service is located in the lobby to help you plan. At very low prices you can have a one-day or a two-day tour to the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, Old Mexico, or ghost cities and gold mines. If you like Arizona so well that you decide to buy a piece of real estate and settle down, that can be arranged also--right in the hotel lobby there's a real estate sales office.

With all of this, listen to the hotel rates and the banquet prices--the best in years. Single rooms \$6.50; doubles, \$8.00; twin beds, \$10.00; rollaways (for third person in room), \$3.00. Get your reservations in now, because after the Westward Ho is filled the overflow will be put at Hotel San Carlos, located one long

and one short block from Westward Ho--only two streets to cross, at the same rates as Westward Ho.

Banquet. The banquet will be held on Thursday evening, July 2. The price (including tip and tax) will be only \$3.75. The menu will feature swiss steak with all the trimmings.

Tour. The scheduled convention tour is, perhaps, the most unique and interesting ever. It will be held on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, July 1. We are going to Legend City, similar to Disneyland--and in some ways more so. The cost of the tickets will be quite reasonable, and once we are inside the gate there will be no additional charge regardless of the number of rides or activities engaged in. For example: examine and ride in a 1913 Pierce-Arrow car, which carries four and can be steered by a blind person (Legend City has several). Ride on a burro: there are several "strings" of these unique animals, and the rides are fabulous. Ride on the old-fashioned, steam-driven choo-choo train, which makes regular runs around the entire perimeter of the 30-acre park. Take the sky ride; get the bucket-like container and be lifted 60 feet above the ground for a ride across the entire park. Pan for gold with old-fashioned mining equipment. Go down in the coal cars and ride through the old ghost mine. Purchase souvenirs at the old-fashioned western store, where a nine-foot bull-whip costs \$1.50.

Of course, there are also the regular rides of the modern amusement park. There is a chicken dinner for one dollar, and a Mexican dinner with one entree for \$1.25 and three entrees for \$1.50. We will arrive at the park gate at four o'clock in the afternoon. There will be transportation back to the hotel within a couple of hours and periodically through the evening; or you can stay until the gates close at midnight. The cost is the same. There is nothing like Legend City in the whole nation.

These are only a few indications of the superb convention plans Jim Fall and the other Arizona people are making, so don't hesitate--combine the NFB Convention with a fun-filled vacation in unique Arizona. Send your reservations now, so that you will be sure of getting a room in the headquarters hotel. Send your requests for reservations directly to: Reservations Manager, Hotel Westward Ho, 618 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. Tell your friends, and let's have a record crowd.

By the way, plans are moving forward for the 1965 convention in Washington, D. C. We are going to the Mayflower Hotel--and the rates are good.

Special Note: We are exploring the possibility of a chartered air flight from the East to the '64 Phoenix Convention--routed from two or three of the main population centers, such as Boston, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Preliminary negotiations indicate that the fare would be about \$138.00 round trip, per person, if enough people make use of the flight. If you may be coming to the Phoenix convention and believe that you may be interested in the low-priced chartered flight, please write by January 15 (1964) to Manuel Rubin, 24 Pearl Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

We are asking now only for an expression of interest, not for commitments, so that we can determine the route in scheduling the flight. All those who reply will be furnished detailed information on the chartered flight as soon as it becomes available.

THE WAR AGAINST BLINDNESS -- RESEARCH FRONT

Acceleration of eye research across the country despite three major roadblocks--lack of facilities, scientific manpower and funds--is summarized by Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc., in its annual report issued recently from New York.

The foundation, established in 1960 to encourage and support scientific research and research training aimed at finding means of preventing blindness, reports these major eye research accomplishments during the past year:

The first successful use of a drug (IDU) to combat a widespread virus infection--herpes simplex keratitis, that leads to eight out of ten corneal transplants done in this country;

Use of the needle-thin beam of the laser, the most intense light ever produced, to repair torn retinas (see below, article titled "New Success with Detached Retinas"); and

The first successful micro-photography of the bloodstreams within the retina.

In addition, progress was also reported by the research foundation on these experimental fronts:

Development of a vaccine to prevent trachoma, the world's leading cause of blindness; new techniques in cataract surgery and work on the biochemistry of the lens, to find the cause of cataracts; increased understanding of uveitis, a blinding inflammatory disease; study of diabetic retinopathy, a blinding condition of the retina stemming from diabetes; and the finding of ways to prevent such genetically related eye diseases as retinitis pigmentosa, dislocated lenses and blinding tumors in childhood.

The RPB group also pointed in its report to new techniques of freezing and storing whole eyes for transplantation; the isotope-tagging of cells to learn how wounds of the cornea are healed and how the eye repels virus invasions; and investigation of metabolism and the aging process, indicating that rings around the cornea, normally thought to result from aging, may be related to fat intake.

Stressing the need for research to save sight, the foundation cites a growing incidence of blindness in this country--more than 30,000 new cases a year compared to 6,700 cases a year in the 1940's--a trend that will reportedly continue as the life span lengthens, unless research can unmask the causes of blindness and find new means of prevention.

The report points out, finally, that medical science still does not understand the cause of six out of ten cases of blindness, including cataracts, a condition recognized in ancient Babylon and described in Hammurabi's Code nearly 4,000 years ago.

CALIFORNIA REHAB APPOINTEES SCORED

By James McGinnis

(Editor's note: Mr. McGinnis is president of the California Council of the Blind, the state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. His article, reprinted with permission, was prepared for publication in THE COUNCIL BULLETIN.)

For years California has had one of the poorest rehabilitation records for the blind of any state. Only last August, statistics from

the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare showed that California was 54th among the states and territories in successful rehabilitation efforts. Only 54 were listed.

Despite our best efforts, S.B. 1023 was passed last Spring, jamming services for the blind into the new Department of Rehabilitation along with all other rehabilitative services. Due to our efforts, however, a special Division for the Blind was established, which now includes Rehabilitation for the Blind.

Andrew Marrin developed one of the most massive campaigns ever seen in the Governor's office to have himself appointed Director of the new department. Despite this, he was not successful in obtaining the directorship. His failure was generally credited to hundreds of letters from individual blind people throughout the state opposing his appointment.

The directorship went instead to Warren Thompson who had held a similar position in Colorado and has had experience with the federal Vocational Rehabilitation Service. We had high hopes for Mr. Thompson, but he has made the job of developing an effective rehabilitation service for the blind virtually impossible by the appointments he has made. These are Andrew Marrin as Deputy Director and David Mendelsohn as Chief of the Division for the Blind.

Marrin's appointment to the Deputy Directorship is nothing short of incredible in view of the appalling record he had in the preceding years as Chief of Rehabilitation Services. Warren Thompson, speaking at the Council Convention, pointed out that California was 47th in utilization of federal funds, although it is the largest state in the union. Marrin's attacks on organizations of the blind, his destruction of an independent vending stand organization and the substituting for it of company unions, and most of all his disgraceful record in the placement of blind persons in gainful employment are all so well known to the blind of California that nothing more need be cited to show his disqualification for the job of deputy director. If Marrin's appointment is termed incredible, Mendelsohn's appointment as Chief of the Division for the Blind is doubly unbelievable. His most recent experience, as a rehabilitation counselor in southern California, is characterized by ineptness, antagonism of clients, and lack of any outstanding job placement. Within the last few days, we have had documentary evidence of charges so serious against him that we are considering filing a formal request for disciplinary action with the State Personnel Board.

At the suggestion and request of Winslow Christian, Administrator of the Health and Welfare Agency in which the Department of

Rehabilitation is now located, we submitted recommendations for both the Deputy Director and Chief of the Division for the Blind positions. The people we recommended had proven without question their ability to work with blind people and put them into useful jobs. After our recommendations were ignored, we issued a press release setting forth the facts concerning the deplorable appointments of Marrin and Mendelsohn and urging Thompson to reconsider. (Marrin is removable by Thompson at will, and Mendelsohn has not yet obtained civil service status in the new job.)

The future of rehabilitation is gloomy unless--unless the blind of California do something about it. Times are changing and we need no longer go hat in hand begging for better services. It is time that we demand adequate rehabilitation service as a right and enforce this demand by moral strength and public awareness.

CIVIL SERVICE SWITCHES TO THE BLIND

An event of real importance for the future employment of many blind people took place in Washington on March 13, 1963, when the first totally blind switchboard operator to be employed under the Federal Civil Service went to work for the General Services Administration. Having completed the required one-year experience and passed the civil service aptitude test, this young lady was certified to the General Services Administration for a Grade 3 position from the regular civil service register.

On April 1, 1963, another blind switchboard operator was also employed by the General Services Administration. This operator, who did not have the requisite one-year experience but who had passed the aptitude test, was certified by Civil Service Commission as a switchboard trainee, Grade 1. After completing the required experience, she will become eligible for promotion.

These two cases are illustrative of the two avenues open to the employment of blind switchboard operators under the Federal Civil Service, according to information from the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

1. Blind operators with at least one-year experience may,

upon passing the aptitude test, be placed on the civil service register for appointment to Grade 3 positions at beginning annual salary of \$3,820; and

2. Operators with sufficient skill but lacking the one-year experience may, upon completion of the civil service aptitude test, be certified for a specific position as Grade 1 trainee, with a beginning annual salary of \$3,245.

BLIND MAN BLUFFS MACHINES

Clifford E. Jensen, recently re-elected president of the Colorado Federation of the Blind, was the recipient of another accolade a short time ago--in the form of an article featuring his personal accomplishments which was published in the ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS.

The article, written by staff reporter Wes French, described Jensen as "a 40-year-old machinist who wants his story told for one reason alone--to let people know that blind or otherwise handicapped people can do a full-time job at tasks which for many would be difficult even without a physical handicap."

The newspaper story said that doctors at the University of Colorado Medical Center, "in need of intricate devices and instruments in their teaching and research, turn to one man to produce them. And the man who turns out these items, anywhere from a knurled screw to a huge Rube Goldberg-looking machine, is blind."

Jensen was said to have devised and manufactured dozens of medical and scientific instruments "which previously existed only in the mind of the researcher or teacher who needed a specific tool for a specific need."

An employee of the medical school for the past ten years, Jensen lost his sight through illness in 1955. "I got the usual advice--go home, take it easy for awhile and we'll see what happens," he said.

"But after a month at home I couldn't take it anymore.

I have a machine shop in the basement and one day I went down there to find out if I could still work. By taking my time and adapting some of my tools, I was able to turn out as good work as ever," he said.

"I called the medical school and asked if they would give me a chance to go back to work. I was lucky. They were very understanding people and told me to come on in and get to work."

Today in his crowded machine shop at the medical center Jensen operates all manner of complicated machinery--drill presses, lathes, saws and other metal-working tools--all through a well-developed sense of touch, the newspaper reported.

Thanks to a letter from Cliff's wife, Marie, THE BLIND AMERICAN has learned of other "constructive" accomplishments turned out by the state Federation president in his spare time. Among other things, he has built a patio behind the Jensen house, removing a section of the wall and window and installing a double sliding door which he constructed himself (with the aid of Cliff, Junior).

"He has also worked with young Cliff to finish paneling the walls of our mountain cabin which he began long before he lost his sight, and to put the log siding on the outside of the cabin," Mrs. Jensen relates.

"He designed and cut the 'gingerbread' trim that gives our cabin a Swiss chalet appearance, by making a wood and metal jig for his portable power-saw to follow. Now he is preparing to go to Camp Tahosa with the Boy Scout troop for a week of summer camping."

Between his part-time volunteer labor on home and cabin, his full-time job as head machinist at the university medical center--and his active responsibilities as the head of Colorado's statewide organization of the blind--Cliff Jensen nevertheless finds time to help Marie with the raising of their four children.

Otherwise, he just loafs.

NEVADA'S MODEL CAMP FOR BLIND CHILDREN

By John C. Ruiz

(Editor's note: Mr. Ruiz is Chief of the Bureau of Services to the Blind, Division of Welfare, Nevada State Department of Health and Welfare. His article, originally prepared as a staff memorandum, is reproduced here in abridged form.)

The State of Nevada, as most readers already know, has been in the past and continues to be woefully inadequate in resources for serving persons who are blind. While evaluation centers outside the state have served a definite purpose in obtaining information needed for fruitful rehabilitation plans for our blind clients, it has long been apparent that our state itself had a need for some type of evaluation facility in which our rehabilitation facility could obtain first-hand data of more use in planning.

In 1959 we began to plan a small evaluation facility of our own in the form of an annual orientation training course of two weeks' duration--attended by 20 to 25 clients, along with counselors and additional professional and supporting staff, in a 24-hour-day residential setting.

Up until 1963 the Bureau held four such courses with great success. This year the Chief of the Bureau proposed that blind children be accepted within the 1963 orientation training course. Needless to say, the Bureau's professional staff viewed this suggestion with some alarm, since until this date the Bureau of Services to Children had been restricted to the provision of talking books and some consultation for families and resource teachers.

The proposal was for a camp setting rather than a school setting, in view of the fact that this year's course was to serve as a supplement to the children's school-year learning. While in previous years the Bureau had provided for its adult clients an academic subject or instruction, this time the instruction would be in the area of what we call "tools for living," for lack of a better name. The curriculum would consist of such items as social dancing, table etiquette, face-to-face speaking, mobility, typing, swimming, hiking and fishing, and group discussion. The latter heading would take in such subjects as social relationships between boys and girls, how to make friends, parent and child problems, occupational information, and a rudimentary introduction to personal problem-solving.

Eight short months after the original planning session, the Bureau launched its 1963 orientation training course, in the vicinity of beautiful Lake Tahoe, at a rather primitive but adequate camp site. Of the 22 children accepted for the course, eleven were boys and eleven girls; moreover, boys and girls were of sufficiently compatible age to allow us to plan our program for a coeducational younger group and an older group.

Since the children were in much greater need of personal supervision than our adults in the past, four cottage supervisors were employed and the children divided for residential purposes into four small groups--younger and older boys, younger and older girls.

For some time the Bureau has felt that services for blind children and adults alike have been provided too much in indoor settings, thereby failing to provide sufficient outdoor experiences for healthy, well-rounded living. For this reason as much activity as possible was conducted out of doors. This included classes, recreation and even dining.

On an experimental basis we conducted group discussions classes which were as much as possible unstructured so as to allow the children sufficient feeling of freedom and spontaneous expression to enable them to bring to the classes their problems, which usually were viewed as common problems by enough of their classmates to warrant discussion.

The four cottage supervisors had a definite function to perform--providing the children with such items of training as grooming, personal hygiene, table etiquette, household arts, indoor mobility and attitude training in the areas of punctuality, acceptable deportment and camp citizenship.

Activities of Daily Living classes were conducted by a coordinator who worked with three additional instructors. This section attempted to impart to the children in a sequential program such activities as handicrafts, household arts, home mechanics and structured outdoor recreation. Each child received a separate evaluation by this section, and an individual plan was set up for each enabling him to begin at his own level and to progress to more complex activities during the course.

Our evenings and weekends were filled with recreation such as hiking, swimming, boatriiding, fishing, campfire sessions, community sings and picnics.

Conclusions:

While at the beginning of this course, we all felt anxiety as to its success, we now realize that a great deal of benefit was derived by the children from their experience. Furthermore, the children's families also benefited as we know from countless very positive communications which we have had since the children returned to their homes.

While our 1963 orientation training course for children was wholly experimental, we know now that this type of evaluation endeavor does work and we plan to incorporate it into the Bureau's ongoing programs--alternating the yearly sessions between children and adults.

At the time of this writing, all of the children served this summer are again back at school. Our resource teachers have also commented upon the benefits which they feel these children received, and have urged that more of this type of service be given as soon as possible; for even though the primary aim of the course was for provision of evaluation information to the counselors, the byproducts received were invaluable in terms of aiding our children toward more self-sufficiency in their activities of daily living, both for the present and the future.

IOWA OBSERVES WHITE CANE WEEK

An official proclamation naming the week of October 13, 1963, as "White Cane Safety Week" was issued last month by Iowa's Governor Harold E. Hughes. The gubernatorial action came on the heels of efforts by the Iowa Association of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind to draw attention throughout the country to white cane laws. Governor Hughes's proclamation follows:

"WHEREAS, the problems of blindness can be solved by proper training and opportunity for the blind, by public education and understanding, and by effective research; and

"WHEREAS, Iowa Lions Clubs, particularly through the Iowa Lions Sight Conservation Foundation; the Iowa Association of the

Blind, the state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind; and others have worked cooperatively to spearhead programs in Iowa leading to the economic and social independence of the blind; and

"WHEREAS, the white cane and laws relating to it symbolize the independence that can be achieved by the blind;

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harold E. Hughes, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of October 13, 1963, as WHITE CANE SAFETY WEEK in Iowa, and call upon all our citizens to focus attention upon the needs and problems of the blind, to encourage employers and the public to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons, to support Iowa organizations guiding this important work, and to recognize the white cane as an instrument of safety and self-help for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways."

ARIZONANS HOLD RADIO PANEL DISCUSSION

By Margaret Pekarek

"The Role of the Blind in Business and Industry" was the subject of a stimulating panel discussion staged by the Arizona Federation of the Blind shortly before its recent state convention (held October 19-20 at Phoenix's PorterHouse Motel). The discussion, which brought together representatives of industry and business along with leaders of the organized blind, was arranged primarily as a radio broadcast designed to interest employers in expanding job opportunities for blind persons.

Among those participating was Kenneth Jernigan, first vice president of the National Federation of the Blind and director of Iowa's Commission for the Blind, who emphasized that a well-trained blind individual can competently hold virtually every job in industry and needs only the opportunity to demonstrate his equal capacity on the job.

The expert work done by blind persons in processing film was explained by John Fahey, executive manager of the Arizona Color Film Company, who noted that blind technicians are more capable than sighted in this work due to their trained sensitivities of touch and taste.

Ridge Hicks, assistant to the president of Allison Steel and head of the advisory council of Arizona's Industries for the Blind, told of the profit made on last year's civil defense project which involved packing and assembling of sanitation kits. This year Arizona and the Phoenix Workshop has been awarded another contract to assemble some 64,000 kits, with the provision of employment to many blind Arizonans.

The activities of the Arizona Federation and of Phoenix's Zenith Club were detailed to the radio audience by Gordon Perrine, legislative chairman of the AFB and president of Clico Lab Supply Company. Perrine also urged the sighted public to take an interest in the organizations of the blind and asked their support in securing new opportunities for the sightless "who do not want your pity but only jobs which will bring self-support and independence."

The radio discussion was moderated by Dr. Ralph Hook, Arizona State University professor, and was broadcast on "Western Business Roundup" radio program. The panel group also conducted another discussion on related subjects of interest to the blind as part of the AFB state convention.

HANDICAPPED FIRM SETS SAFETY RECORD

Don't tell Robert Piccola that handicapped workers are not safe workers. If you do, he will point out to you that his firm, which hires the handicapped--the Piccola Manufacturing Achievement Project for Handicapped, Inc. (509 East Market, Louisville, Ky.)--has had 8 years without an accident.

Ironically, Piccola started the firm 8 years ago after he was paralyzed by a methane gas explosion. After recovering his health he organized the company and so far has trained over 200 handicapped persons and others to perform useful work.

The company, which makes material-handling equipment, recently won an award from the Safety Department of the Kentucky Department of Labor for its record of no lost time from work injuries.

At the time of the inspection a few months ago Mr. Piccola

had 26 workers. Twenty more had also been trained and placed in employment elsewhere. Piccola gets no Federal or State assistance except help in locating handicapped workers through the Kentucky State Employment Service, the Jefferson County rehabilitation program, the State Commission for Employment of the Handicapped, and other agency sources giving such assistance.

This is a personal project with Piccola which he calls his "investment in humanity."

After his workers have served a one-year training period they may stay with the company, earning periodic pay raises. If they prefer, he helps them find other jobs on the outside.

Piccola says he attributes the success of his firm to two factors: One is the loyalty and teamwork of his handicapped workers and two is his wife, Marie.

A LETTER TO COLLEGE YOUTH

By Bill Lyons

(Editor's note: Mr. Lyons, vice president of the Rhode Island Federation of the Blind, is the author of the following communication published in the Brown University student newspaper, the BROWN DAILY HERALD, November 19, 1963. The letter has been abridged to meet limitations of space.)

Editor:

Truly, those of the animal world, humans included, who are without eyesight are the "sightless." The term "blind" has a variety of meanings, as a peep into Webster's Unabridged will show anyone who could define the term "to see." But, since the race of man has elected to speak of those of us who rumble around in the thing called human life--we are "the blind." So, let us use the name made familiar by that most uncontrollable of all weapons--the tongue, ably aided by the loose pen.

Your sociology department knows next to nothing about the

sociology of the blind. The famous (or infamous) libraries know even less. No one has ever written and published a real "sociology of the blind," and at this late date, when some nut might let fly with an incinerator missile or bomb, it would appear that our men of pen have a more pressing literary endeavor calling them. So, how are you college kids going to learn something practical about the sociology of the blind? Of course, you will want to know something about it. What will you do if the proposition in concrete form should pop up in front of you like a brick wall? . . .

A well-educated human or other animal should know something consequential about his fellow humans and other animals who can't see the edge of the precipice toward which they are walking or sliding or diving. What makes the blind humans tick? How in Halifax do they know which room reads "MEN"? . . . How do they manage to pass the unpublished entrance exams for Brown or Pembroke or even Harvard? And, if they go through college on a pony or otherwise, what jobs await them, and where? Do they have fun on the beach? And how do they get there without an escort? (Would you want an escort if taking someone special, or being taken by someone special to a sandy, dreamy nook by a clutching arm of the sea?) And who reads your most precious private mail to you? Gosh, kids, for guys and gals with alma mammy heaped all over you, you sure are well supplied with ignorance about the millions of blind guys and gals on terra firma who, but for the grace of God or a turn of hard luck or what have you, would ipso facto change shoes with you!

Drop around and see how the other less-than-half faces the music. We, of the Rhode Island Federation of the Blind, could use your eyesight and your youthful ambition. . . . You can help us organize a better life for the blind of Rhode Island. We shall tell you how. You can make your college days worthwhile. Bring any blind human who might be studying with you in the halls of ivy. Come. . . .

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD ROBINSON

Leonard A. Robinson--famed blind attorney known as the "father of the vending stand program," now supervisor of services to the visually handicapped of the District of Columbia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation--drew a strong tribute recently from the original author of the federal vending stand legislation, Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia.

In a speech before the United States Senate published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD (October 24, 1963), Senator Randolph graphically described the background of experience and dedication which led Robinson a generation ago to conceive the idea of a national vending stand program for the blind.

A graduate of the school for the blind in Philadelphia and subsequently of Western Reserve University Law School in Cleveland, Ohio, Robinson was said to have learned as far back as 1931 "of a project pending in Congress which would permit blind persons to operate snack bars in Federal buildings. His two years of active law practice had brought him in touch with many sightless citizens who, despite their various abilities and skills, had found it difficult to secure employment due to the skeptical attitude of employers," Senator Randolph said.

"Mr. Robinson realized that the Federal stand program for the blind, if enacted into law, would be an object lesson for society. Such people attending their vending stands and serving customers would demonstrate to thousands all over the country that the blind were able, businesslike, and employable.

"Mr. Robinson brought his plan to me, and in 1936 legislation passed Congress and became law. . . . Mr. Robinson was not a paid worker, but a volunteer who labored at the expense of his law practice and reportedly utilized almost \$10,000 of his personal savings," the Senator stated.

He recalled that "when Mr. Robinson came to the District of Columbia in 1931 to make his first study of the possibilities of the Federal effort, there were 10 blind persons employed here. . . . Their combined annual income approximated \$9,000."

By contrast, Senator Randolph said that there are today approximately 77 vending stands in the District of Columbia making use of the skills of 80 blind persons. "Their annual gross business during this fiscal year is estimated to be close to three million dollars,

with net profits to the operators of more than \$600,000.

"It is estimated that there are at least 200 other blind persons employed in the District whose annual combined incomes approximate two million dollars. In the United States today, a total number of 2,425 operators are employed under the Randolph-Sheppard Act," he said.

"All this as a result of the Federal legislation which Leonard Robinson helped to carry forward."

NEW SUCCESS WITH DETACHED RETINAS

The world is no longer necessarily dark for many who suffer from what used to be a major cause of blindness, according to a report published recently in the Oakland (California) TRIBUNE. Detached retinas--the photographic film of the eyes--are being successfully repaired in about 85 percent of surgical operations.

A group of eye surgeons reported on this heartening development at the San Francisco convention of the American College of Surgeons held in late October.

Less than a generation ago those who developed this condition usually were blinded, many in both eyes, because doctors knew next to nothing of methods to repair the ailment, the newspaper said. The affliction reportedly strikes one out of every 4,000 persons--brought about when the retina, a filmy substance on the inside of the eyeball, becomes detached from the nerves leading to the brain.

"Warning symptoms consist of light flashes and swarms of black spots that swim before one's eyes," the article stated. The surgeons claim that such symptoms are experienced by everyone at some time, but if they persist can mean trouble.

"Surgeons have developed many ways to treat this affliction, including such methods as using silicon rubber coating to keep the retina in place. Dramatic developments, such as the photocoagulator and lasers, have limited utility at present," the doctors were quoted as saying.

These methods reportedly provide heat to seal the retina when a tear occurs, before the retina is entirely detached, but once the retina is detached other methods of operation are needed, the physicians said.

Participating in the discussion were Doctors John C. Long, Denver; Albert N. Lemoine, Jr., Kansas City, Missouri; Neil F. Thorlakson, Seattle, and Bayard H. Colyear, Jr., San Francisco.

IN STEP AND IN TUNE

"The halftime show began and the University of Florida Gator band went through its perfect maneuvers without difficulty. No one took special notice of Leah Russell, a slender blonde coed playing the piccolo.

"The band twirled and turned and filed into formation. No one noticed Leah because she didn't miss a step, and because no one knew her secret.

"Leah has been blind since birth."

So began a feature story on Miss Russell, a freshman at the University of Florida, which appeared in the GAINESVILLE SUN on October 15, 1963. The account of her unusual musical--and physical--accomplishment was said to have begun in the ninth grade at a Miami high school when she first learned to play the flute, similar to the piccolo she now plays.

During her first two years of high school, Leah played with the school band, but retired to the sidelines when the group marched onto the field. Then, in her junior year, she burst into the band-leader's office determined to join in as an "active" member of the band, the newspaper reported. "I get lonely just sitting there while everybody else plays," she told him.

The band director gave her individual coaching, and she practiced barefoot on the sidewalk in order to master the special step and cadence of the marching band--an eight-steps-to-five-yards ratio. "The cracks were exactly five yards apart and they taught me

to take the proper step length," she said.

When Leah entered the Florida college for the first time this fall, few problems were encountered. So far she has marched in the Georgia Tech, Mississippi State and Richmond games, according to the newspaper story.

The slender student plans to major in English and hopes to teach literature, but is also interested in journalism because she "loves to write."

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Crosby Heads New Jerseyans. Myles Crosby of Englewood was elected president at the sixth annual convention of the State Council of New Jersey Organizations of the Blind, held in Paterson on October 19. Milford Force of Somerset was chosen to be first vice president. Other elected officers are: second vice president, Stanley Spaide, Audubon; recording secretary, Mrs. Constance Rich, of Elizabeth; treasurer, Henry Duser, Jersey City. Three members named to the Executive Committee are Mrs. Anne Rose Johnston, Newark; Mrs. Lois Forstner, Woodbridge, and Mr. Harold Diaker, Rutherford.

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Maryland Council Elections. Mrs. Clarice Arnold was re-elected to the presidency of the Maryland Council of the Blind in elections held last month. Marjorie Flack was named vice president and William Appel treasurer. Another event of note is reported to THE BLIND AMERICAN by our loyal Maryland correspondent, Marjorie Flack:

"For the first time since we were organized in 1927, we were given White Cane Safety Day proclamations by the state governor and the mayor of Baltimore. The date was October 15. The coverage was far-reaching and the response most gratifying. Needless to say, all of us are quite pleased; we hope to do even better in the future."

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Don Capps on Job Training. Donald C. Capps, second vice president of the National Federation of the Blind, delivered the key speech at the October convention of the Alabama Federation of the Blind, stressing as a main theme the economic problem of blindness. Following are a few of his pertinent observations:

"There is no single or simple answer to our economic dilemma. However, I feel that there definitely are some things we can do to bring about a healthier situation. We live in an era in which education and specialized training are an imperative part of our modern life. First, a sighted person must have certain training and skills before he can successfully secure a job, unless he is willing to accept a job requiring only manual labor. The same is true in the case of a blind person. However, unlike the sighted person the blind individual, in addition to possessing the same training and skill, must also be a cracker-jack salesman, as he will have to convince the prospective employer that his blindness will not affect his ability to perform the job satisfactorily. So, then, it is really a twofold proposition. First, if blind people are to meet successfully the competition for jobs, they must be highly trained in our schools, in our colleges, and in rehabilitation centers.

"The second step is to wage an all-out war on human prejudices and misunderstandings on the part of America's employers. . . . We realize that we already have training programs and programs of public education, and we are proud of the progress that has been made, but we feel that these programs have been more passive than active. . . . The blind should take the lead in seeing to it that they get the technical training and other forms of education so that they can compete in the open market for a job. We must insist upon the necessary appropriations to finance these programs adequately, for in the long run this will be more economical than the relief rolls."

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Blind Peace Corpsman Profiled. The second blind person to volunteer successfully for the Peace Corps, Mike McAviney of California, was the subject of a verbal profile in the October, 1963, issue of the NEWSLETTER published by the Alumni Association of the Oakland Orientation Center for the Adult Blind. Portions of the brief biographical sketch follow:

"Mike, a native of the Hawaiian Islands, came to California and entered the School for the Blind in Berkeley. After he graduated from Oakland Technical High School, he entered college in Salinas where he received his A.A. degree with a major interest in Foreign Relations.

"About a year ago, he became interested in the Peace Corps, applied, was accepted, and in July went to New Mexico to begin an intensive orientation and training course at the University of Albuquerque for his two-year assignment at the School for the Blind in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

"His training schedule consisted of 30 hours per week of Spanish, 16 hours of discussion and lectures, and 22 hours of Outward Bound (hiking, camping, swimming, etc.) One noteworthy part of the training was a four-day survival hike in the Pecos wilderness. His training was completed in October and he will go to Ecuador, in South America."

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Blind Actors' Group. The Elbee Audio Players, an independent group of blind amateur players, performing at various community centers in the New York City area, seeks additional players. Its aims are: the development of a permanent blind repertory company based on full-length audio, dramatic reading adaptations of major plays; the encouragement of richer self-expression, and, above all, service to the community. Blind persons living in the New York area, who are competent braille readers or can read large print, are invited to participate in this challenging program. No dramatic experience is necessary. Interested persons may contact Director David Sverdlow, 621 West End Avenue, New York (TRafalgar 4-5704).

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Nevada Officers Listed. Not mentioned in last month's report in these columns on the October convention of the Nevada Federation of the Blind was the full roster of officers elected to serve alongside President Audrey Bascom. They are: first vice president, K. O. Knudson, Las Vegas; second vice president, Catherine Callahan, Reno; secretary, Coe Hawthorne, Las Vegas; treasurer, Jim Ellis, Boulder City. Chosen as board members were Carl Clontz, Louise Long, Jean Savage, and Jimmie Lee Washington.

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Guide for Parents. Basic principles of caring for a blind child, presented in picture-book form, comprise a newly published informational brochure, A Guide for Parents of a School-Age Blind Child. Agencies and professional persons interested in the visually handicapped may obtain a free copy by writing The State Commission for the Blind Children's Services, 270 Broadway, New York 7, New York.

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Small Business Opportunities. A new publication of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, "Small Business Enterprises in Vocational Rehabilitation," is concerned with opportunities in the small business field for placement of handicapped persons. Pointing out that 10 percent of all placements in the state-federal rehabilitation program are in self-employment, this booklet contains guidelines to help rehabilitation counselors in planning small business objectives with their clients. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., at 20 cents per copy.

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Journey Out of Darkness. This is the title of a new autobiography by Marie Bell McCoy, mainly concerned with her experience and adjustment following sudden loss of sight. "My province, and the province of this book, is to hearten the spirit, lift the morale, of persons seeking a 'way out' after some personal disaster--whether that disaster be physical or emotional," she writes. As summarized in the BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS: "Mrs. McCoy's account of her fight to free herself from the emotional blackness which descended upon her is a sincere and moving story. Her record of the insults she endured--people shouted at her, assumed that she could no longer sign her name but was reduced to making a mark, and told her that the only occupation open to her was to weave potholders and sell them door-to-door--demonstrates how great the need still is for public education in dealing with the handicapped. But more than this, her book is a specific, detailed account of how she marshaled her inner resources in the face of tragedy. It is a guide for those who must, or may have to, do likewise."

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Typewriters Reasonably Priced. Blind persons who may be considering the purchase of a new typewriter are urged to write to the MATILDA ZIEGLER MAGAZINE FOR THE BLIND, at Monsey, New York, for details on Remington Portables offered through this publishing company by the Remington Typewriter Company. The machines are said to be brand-new late models available at a reasonable price, according to the magazine. . . . Aluminum collapsible canes, of any length, are obtainable from the Service Committee for the Blind, 935 North Sycamore, Lansing, Michigan, according to an item in THE OBSERVER, monthly newsletter of the Montana Association for the Blind. The canes reportedly are white with a red tip; they are made by blind people and profits from their sale assigned to a home for the aged blind.

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Boston Blind Forge Ahead. Although it was acquired only a few months ago, the downtown headquarters of the Associated Blind of Greater Boston is already being outgrown, according to Charles W. Little, an officer of the ABGW who is also legislative chairman of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts and a veteran leader in the National Federation.

Charlie tells us that since the Tremont Street office was opened last June, with its duties jointly shared by himself and the late Nathan Nadelman, contacts with the general public and press have been greatly improved. "On October 15, the anniversary date of the White Cane, I did a radio program with Motor Vehicle Registrar James Lawton. We were interviewed by Gus Saunders and Louise Morgan, two radio celebrities. I talked about the origin of the White Cane an implement used by the blind as a safety measure in going about alone," he writes.

Among other projects of the Boston chapter is a fund-raising effort to build or purchase a building adequate for the group's expanding ventures. Also in the wind is a future project involving sponsorship of a blind child in an underprivileged nation.

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Dr. Grant's Work Cited. Dr. Isabelle Grant, famed "ambassador" of the National Federation of the Blind to Pakistan and other newly emerging nations of the East, was the subject of a lengthy article published in the Washington POST on July 14, 1963, and subsequently reprinted in PERFORMANCE: THE STORY OF THE HANDICAPPED, the official monthly publication of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (December, 1963).

Noting that Dr. Grant was returning to Pakistan for the third time to teach its teachers how to instruct blind children, the article quoted her as follows:

"We Americans are not accustomed to go a long way to understanding other peoples--we usually expect them to understand us instead. . . . All I ask for blind people is that they get the right of self-development, self-direction and self-determination, the opportunity to be educated."

The newspaper article pointed out that Dr. Grant, "who was born in Scotland and still speaks with a slight Scottish accent, came to the United States 30 years ago with her husband, the late Dr. Alexander Lewis Grant. . . . Now an American citizen, she has a doctor's degree in comparative literature from the University of

Southern California and has received teaching certificates from the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Madrid. She also speaks German and has a reading knowledge of Italian and Portuguese and 'now I'm into Urdu. '"

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Rehab Official Honored. Russell Williams, chief of the Blind Rehabilitation Section of the Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C., was the recipient last summer of an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities awarded in commencement ceremonies of Western Michigan University. The citation praised Williams for his work in rehabilitation of blind persons and for his personal courage and un-failing spirit. Blinded in 1944, Williams became chief of the VA's blind orientation program in Illinois in 1948, and later moved to Washington where he has been highly successful in promoting and administering the agency's programs for the blind.

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Alabama Federationist Passes. Tom Richardson, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, passed away on September 14, according to information received from Barney Abbott, our correspondent for the Alabama Federation of the Blind. Richardson was a state board member from Birmingham and a prominent figure for many years at conventions of the National Federation. He will be missed by a great many in the ranks of the organized blind.

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Report on British Blind. "Latest statistics on employment of the blind (in Great Britain) show that there are now some 7,000 blind persons in open, as compared with 4,000 in sheltered occupations," according to Anthony L. de Silva, president of the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom (not connected with the National Federation of the Blind in the United States). Addressing the annual delegate conference of the British Federation, held last June in London, de Silva observed that "everyone will welcome this trend towards open at the expense of sheltered employment. To the Federation, however, it should constitute a direct challenge."

"As the second largest association of the blind in the United Kingdom, it cannot too often be emphasized that we are not, and never have been, a trade union. The appeal of an organization such as our, untrammelled as it is by political or trade union affiliation, should be obvious to all: if it is not, then it is up to each one of us to make it so to this ever-increasing number of blind persons going out into

the world of unsheltered occupations."

* * * * *

New Policy on Tapes. The National Braille Press, Inc., has announced that its future policy regarding books on tape will be to do all volunteer reading on 1800-foot reels, according to an announcement in THE NEW OUTLOOK. Blind persons desiring such tapes are requested, in submitting a book to be recorded on magnetic tape, to send along also a sufficient number of 1800-foot reels for the book-- or alternatively to purchase enough tape for the whole recording at the non-profit rate of \$2.25 per reel.

Another method of obtaining tape-recorded books, through the Library of Congress, is described as follows: "You must send to the Library of Congress a request that the National Braille Press be authorized to record your book on Library of Congress tape. Send the Library the title of the book, author, publisher, and date of copyright. If the book is not eligible to be recorded on Library of Congress tape you will be notified immediately. Otherwise an authorization slip will be sent to you to be forwarded, along with the book, to the National Braille Press, Inc. The taped book will be sent to you with the obligation on your part to return the tapes to the Library of Congress when the book has served your purpose."

* * * * *

Discrimination Scored. "Discrimination in employment is being practiced today not only against Negroes, but also against Negroes and whites alike because of individual handicaps or disabilities," according to Congressman Thomas B. Curtis. The Missouri Republican, in an October speech in the House of Representatives, condemned the job prejudice as "a great injustice affecting many men and women who, if given the opportunity, would be fully able to perform as well or better than those without handicaps."

Congressman Curtis, whose remarks were printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, quoted from a NEW YORK TIMES editorial which cited the high goals being achieved in vocational rehabilitation and concluded: "The fact that disabled persons can do excellent work is nothing new to organizations dedicated to serving the handicapped. Employers, personnel directors, supervisors, foremen and co-workers should rid themselves of discriminatory practices toward the handicapped. Not merely for compassion's sake, but to help their own businesses."

* * * * *

Virginia's Braille Library. A wide variety of braille and recorded books of spiritual or inspirational content "geared to readers from third grade through maturity" is available to blind persons from the Braille Circulating Library, Inc., 2823 West Grace Street, Richmond 21, Virginia, according to a communication received from Miss Louise Harrison McCraw, Library Secretary. Among recent titles acquired by the group are six braille books, eight talking books and 16 tape books, generally on religious subjects.

* * * * *

Japan Blind Described. A brief account of the status of blind persons in Japan, and of the work presently being done for them, was set forth in a recent NEWSLETTER (No. 14) of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind. Noting that "there are in Japan today five rehabilitation centers for the adult blind, 29 rehabilitation institutes for blind children and 75 schools for the blind," the publication pointed out that work for the blind in the Far East nation "is coordinated by a central body formed in 1952 by the joining of all existing associations for the blind into the Japan Council of Welfare Institutions for the Blind."

The Japanese blind were said to be "employed primarily in their traditional professions of massage, acupuncture, moxibustion and music. There are also blind teachers, and some blind persons are employed in industry and in artisan trades such as basketry, knitting, radio assembly, pottery, brush and broom-making, sandal making, etc. The granting of special pensions to the blind is governed by the Welfare Law for the Handicapped of 1950."

* * * * *

Rehab Scores New Gains. For the second year in a row, more than 100,000 rehabilitations have been tallied under the State-Federal system of rehabilitating disabled men and women to productive and satisfying lives.

According to reports submitted by all the state and territorial rehabilitation agencies to the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, the actual number of persons rehabilitated reached 110,136. This was the eighth consecutive year in which a new all-time high in rehabilitations had been achieved.

It was pointed out that these increases have resulted from a four-pronged attack on the problems of disability and dependency:

- (1) use of increased State and Federal funds for rehabilitation services,
- (2) training and recruitment of more professional rehabilitation workers,

(3) establishment of increasing numbers of rehabilitation and work-shop facilities, and (4) application of new knowledge and techniques that have come from research in all parts of the country.

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THE KENNEDY BILL: MEMORIAL TO A PRESIDENT

"Organizations of blind persons exist today in many cities and communities throughout the country . . . formed by the blind to advance their own welfare and common interests. These organizations provide to our blind citizens the opportunity of collective self-expression. . . . It is important that these views be expressed freely and without interference. It is important that these views be heard and considered by persons charged with responsibility for determining and carrying out our programs for the blind."

So spoke a distinguished member of the United States Senate on June 27, 1957, in the course of introducing a bill which has since become a byword among blind Americans. The speaker was the Honorable John F. Kennedy, Senator from Massachusetts. The bill was S. 2411, "A Bill to Protect the Right of the Blind to Self-Expression Through Organizations of the Blind."

The appearance of the Kennedy-Baring bill (introduced in the House by Congressman Walter S. Baring of Nevada) marked a milestone in the history of the organized blind movement. Although the measure was not passed by Congress, its influence has been far-reaching. It was the subject of extensive public hearings in 1959 by a sub-committee of the House Committee on Education and Labor, at which the case for the right of blind people to organize, to speak, and to be heard was presented in graphic and compelling testimony by leaders of the National Federation of the Blind and other groups.

The national Kennedy bill was also the progenitor of a number of "little Kennedy bills" on the state level, of which several have been successfully enacted into law. Moreover, the movement for such protective legislation within the states is still very much alive throughout the country.

The bill which Senator John F. Kennedy introduced into Congress contained two simple requirements: It required the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to the fullest extent practicable, to consult and advise with authorized representatives of organizations of the blind in the formulation, administration and execution of programs for the aid and rehabilitation of the blind. Secondly, it forbade agencies administering blind programs supported by federal funds to exert official influence against the right of the blind to join organizations of the blind and required the Secretary of H.E.W. to enforce this prohibition.

The Kennedy bill was thus squarely in the tradition of democratic legislation designed to activate and implement the rights guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution but often withheld in practice--specifically, the rights of expression and association. The bill was also an eloquent testament to the political philosophy of its author--a philosophy of civil and human rights, of fair play and equal opportunity, which later came to govern the decisive actions of the Kennedy Administration.

Americans will remember John Fitzgerald Kennedy for numerous accomplishments and for many qualities of mind and character. Blind Americans will remember him for all of these, and for one thing more: his eloquent and stalwart defense of their right as citizens to organize for self-expression and self-advancement.

Text of Kennedy Speech

Following is the full text of the speech delivered by Senator John F. Kennedy in the United States Senate, June 27, 1957, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, 85th Congress, First Session.

"Mr. President, I introduce, for reference to the appropriate committee, a bill to protect the right of blind persons to self-expression through organizations of the blind. I wish to make a statement in connection with the introduction of this bill and ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the body of the RECORD as a part of my remarks.

"Organizations of blind persons exist today in many cities and communities throughout the country. Some of these organizations are community groups, some are alumni groups, some are trade and professional groups, some are associations of vending-stand operators, some are organizations of workshop employees. In most of our States today, organizations of the blind within the State have formed one or more statewide organizations. Forty-three of these statewide organizations of the blind are now federated into a single nationwide organization, the National Federation of the Blind.

"Organizations of this kind have been formed by the blind to advance their own welfare and common interests. These organizations provide to our blind citizens the opportunity for collective self-expression. Through these organizations, these citizens are able to formulate democratically and voice effectively their views on the programs that our National Government and our State governments are financing for their aid and rehabilitation. It is important that

these views be expressed freely and without interference. It is important that these views be heard and considered by persons charged with responsibility for determining and carrying out our programs for the blind.

"In some communities this freedom that each of our blind citizens should have to join, or not to join, organizations of the blind has been prejudiced by a few professional workers in programs for the blind who have allowed their personal views to be expressed in official action for or against particular organizations of the blind. Administrators and workers in welfare programs for the blind possess unusual power to control the lives and influence the conduct of their clients. It is important that our blind citizens be protected against any exercise of this kind of influence or authority to interfere with their freedom of self-expression through organizations of the blind.

"The bill I am introducing would do two things. First, it would direct that, to the fullest extent practicable, the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare shall consult and advise with representatives of organizations of the blind in his formulation and administration of programs for the blind and shall take such steps as may be appropriate to encourage State agencies to do likewise in their formulation and administration of the programs for the blind to which Federal funds are contributed.

"Second, the bill would require that no Federal officer or employee concerned with the administration of programs for the blind shall exert the influence of his office against the right of blind persons to join organizations of the blind; and would require that the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare shall adopt regulations, and condition grants to State and other programs for the blind on terms, so that officers and employees in those programs to which Federal funds are contributed will refrain from exerting the influence of their office against organizations of the blind.

"The bill would leave the enforcement of these policies to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and to the States.

"It is my hope that the problems dealt with in this bill will be made the subject of hearings before the appropriate committee as early as possible and that effective legislation may be enacted without delay."

WELFARE CRACKDOWN THREAT IN NEW JERSEY

By Robert H. Owens

(Editor's note: Mr. Owens is an officer of the Associated Blind of New Jersey and editor of THE ASSOCIATED BLIND LEADER, from which the following article is reprinted.)

In Alameda County, California, early this year, a raiding party of welfare workers swooped in on some of their clients one morning. The purported purpose of the raid was to obtain evidence of cheating.

A blind caseworker refused to be a part of the action: "It would seem that the only possible theory upon which these raids could be carried out is that recipients of public assistance are something less than citizens of the United States, or even human beings," he said.

"The carrying out of a policy of this kind would be much more appropriate for zoo keepers. . . , " he added.

The caseworker was fired.

Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, president of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, and an authority on constitutional law, denounced the raid as "destructive of human dignity, civil rights and the purposes of public welfare."

He called the raids "creeping infiltration of the law of welfare by the law of crimes."

Nearly 3,000 miles east of Alameda County, the sun recently rose on new signs of the infiltration of the law of welfare by the law of crimes.

In Trenton, City Councilman Carmen J. Armenti proposed that welfare clients be fingerprinted and photographed ("mugged") by police.

And the police, according to an off-the-record poll by a newspaper reporter, favor the idea "to a man." "The cops do not see relief clients as helpless and starving. . . , " wrote the reporter.

"They see the perpetration of slums through welfare." "They see crimes growing out of the slums."

One policeman called welfare a "bureaucratic monster," the reporter said. The policemen admit, however, that things would be worse without welfare, the poll-taker disclosed.

Mrs. Helen Huggins, Trenton Welfare Director, rejected the councilman's idea. So did Mayor Arthur J. Holland.

Councilman Armenti is apparently determined to see his plan adopted, however. He said if Trenton officials are against it, he will take the plan to the State Welfare Bureau.

Dr. tenBroek has said infiltration by the law of crimes would replace rehabilitation with retaliation and convert public welfare into "private warfare against the unfortunate."

The validity of the Doctor's observation is being underscored today in Trenton--where the Armenti, Holland-Huggins disagreement has already been labeled a "Welfare War."

In an editorial, November 15, THE TRENTONIAN called Armenti's mug-print idea "an extravagant notion."

"Mr. Armenti's notion that it (welfare cheating) is a great problem seems to rest on nothing more than a strong personal impression," the editorial said.

". . . The first principle in this field, it seems to us, is to provide for the true interests of the persons on welfare," THE TRENTONIAN said.

NEW ALABAMA AID LAW WINS PRAISE

Alabama's progressive new aid-to-the-blind law--known as Act 574--gained congressional attention on December 6 through favorable remarks by Senator Lister Hill of Alabama published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Senator Hill inserted into the record the full text of the state legislation together with a detailed evaluation by John F. Nagle, whom he described as "the able chief of the Washington office of the National Federation of the Blind."

The Alabama lawmaker pointed out that "this new legislation that was approved without a dissenting vote will promote self-care, enlarge the economic opportunities of the blind, and stimulate the blind to greater efforts in rendering themselves self-supporting."

Nagle, in his analysis of the new state law, pointed out that the act has two objectives. First, it seeks to maximize the employment potential of needy blind persons; and, secondly, it provides that all blind people in need, whatever their prospects for employment or rehabilitation, "shall be allowed to live dignified, decent lives."

The full text of Nagle's evaluation of the Alabama aid-to-the-blind law, as printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, follows.

Evaluation and Analysis of Alabama's New Aid-to-the-Blind Law

(Act 574) by John F. Nagle, Chief, Washington Office, National Federation of the Blind

Since the very beginning of the organized blind movement in 1940, sightless men and women from all parts of the Nation and representative of all strata of American life, experience, and activity, have been working together in the National Federation of the Blind to improve conditions and equalize opportunities for all the blind of America--for all the blind of the world.

These goals are now much closer to realization for the blind of the State of Alabama.

The recent session of the Alabama Legislature adopted, without a dissenting vote, a new aid-to-the-blind law which, because of its enlightened provisions, and because of the progressive philosophy it embodies, will make it possible for the blind of that State to achieve a far greater measure of fulfillment in their lives than was previously available to them--than is presently available to the blind in most of the other States.

The adoption of Act 574 places Alabama in the very forefront among the States for its demonstrated concern for the uniquely different difficulties and problems of blind men and women, as they strive to live and function competitively and cooperatively in a sighted world.

This fine accomplishment, this exemplary piece of sensibly humanitarian and soundly economic legislation was the achievement of the blind of Alabama themselves, working together in the Alabama Federation of the Blind, greatly aided by the National Federation of the Blind of which the Alabama group is an affiliate.

Act 574 has two objectives--its provisions are directed toward aiding needy blind Alabamians with an employment potential to realize, to the fullest extent possible, fulfillment of this potential.

It also provides throughout its provisions that blind people in need--whether they have a rehabilitation possibility or not, whether they are on aid for 3 months or all of their lives--it provides that they shall be allowed to live dignified, decent lives.

In short, Act 574 does not punish or penalize blind Alabamians because they are in need, but it does help them by providing an adequate means of abating their need; it does not harass or humiliate them with outmoded and antiquated social and economic concepts and practices of poor relief, but it does provide a means of stimulating, encouraging, and helping them to work their way from reliance upon relief and dependence upon others to self-reliance and dependence upon themselves.

Recognizing that publicly provided assistance to blind persons in need must do much more than satisfy the basic bodily needs of these people for food, clothing, and shelter, the purpose clause of Alabama's aid-to-the-blind law declares that it is intended, not only to "relieve blind persons from the distress of poverty," but, it continues, it is intended "to promote self-care, to enlarge the economic opportunities of the blind, and to stimulate the blind to greater efforts in striving to render themselves self-supporting."

In furtherance of these clearly and emphatically stated restorative and rehabilitative objectives, Act 574 provides a floor of financial security to its blind citizens in need of public help by establishing the amount of \$70 as the amount presumed to be needed each month by recipients of aid to the blind--but it also specifies that this amount shall not be a ceiling on aid granted, that blind persons having special needs beyond this amount, shall have their special needs met and provided for in addition to the \$70 grant.

It is the belief of the National Federation of the Blind that you cannot pauperize a blind person in need of public help, you cannot strip such a person naked of all he possesses, and then expect him to rebuild his life under adverse conditions.

To pauperize and stigmatize a blind person in need of public help, to take from him all he possesses, is just not depriving him of the only material assets he has and which he will need in his struggle to return to normal, economic self-sufficiency, even more damaging, it deprives him of self-pride, it deprives him of hope; it crushes the spirit, it degrades and demeans him so that he will no longer have the heart and spirit to strive to achieve self-dependence and self-support, for all effort will seem purposeless and futile, only static, passive survival will seem left to him.

The new Alabama aid-to-the-blind law recognizes all of this by allowing an applicant for, or recipient of, assistance to retain a home of whatever value so long as it is occupied by the blind person, to retain income-producing property of \$5,000 in value so long as the income derived is used to assist in the support of such blind person, and it allows him to retain personal property in the amount of \$1,200 "as a reserve for future contingencies."

Then finally, Alabama's Act 574 strikes down and removes from the law and from the lives of needy blind persons two of the unfortunate inheritances from the punitive Elizabethan Poor Laws-- it prohibits the imposition of liens for aid or hospital or medical care furnished to blind persons in need, and it outlaws the responsible relative concept in the State's program of public assistance to sightless Alabamians.

All of the provisions of Act 574 indicate Alabama's determination to carry out the congressionally designated purposes of the Federal-State welfare programs, which were first enacted in the social security amendments of 1956, then reinforced and broadened in the public welfare amendments of 1962--for the congressionally declared purposes require, and so does Alabama's new aid-to-the-blind law, not only that public assistance to the blind shall provide support adequate to meet all basic bodily needs, but blind persons in need and dependent shall be assisted and encouraged to care for themselves, to support themselves, and the ties of the blind person with his family shall be strengthened.

All members of the National Federation of the Blind are proud of the accomplishment of the organized blind of Alabama in securing adoption of Act 574, its new aid-to-the-blind law--for we have found from experience in such matters that gains which are won for the blind of one State make easier the obtaining of gains and improvements for the blind in other States; increased opportunities secured for the blind of one State help to equalize opportunities for the blind of the entire Nation.

DEATH CLAIMS TWO ACTIVE WORKERS

Two prominent figures in work with the blind--Robert Moore of Waterloo, Iowa, and Henry Bartleson of Seattle--died from heart attacks in the last weeks of 1963.

Moore, rehabilitation counselor for the Iowa Commission for the Blind, suffered a fatal attack at his home December 20, according to word received from William Klontz, president of the Iowa Association of the Blind. Although unwell for some time, Moore had remained active in his work to the end. He had attended a staff Christmas party in Des Moines only the day before.

The 48-year-old rehabilitation expert had been affiliated with the Iowa Commission for 19 years, having started his public service career in 1944. He became head of the Waterloo office of the Commission in 1959. A graduate of the Nebraska School for the Blind, Moore was a member of the Lions Club and had willed his eyes to the Eye Bank supported by the Lions. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and a 15-year-old son, Nathan.

Henry Ivar Bartleson, 61, whose death came on November 14, was a member of the executive board of the Washington State Association of the Blind and chairman of the committee for the WHITE CANE MAGAZINE, published by the W.S.A.B. He was an active member of the local King County White Cane Association.

In addition to his work for the blind, Bartleson was active in the Great Books Association and other study groups, according to an obituary article published in THE WHITE CANE'S December issue. Born in Lake Mills, Iowa, he moved to Seattle from Spokane 19 years ago. He retired in 1956, when he became blind following an illness. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, three grown children and several grandchildren.

Writing in the editorial column of December's THE WHITE CANE, Managing Editor Helen B. Anthony penned the following tribute to her departed co-worker:

"Henry Bartleson helped plan this issue. . . and the next, for we plan weeks ahead. He had the long view and his general plan extended for years into the near future. He wanted this magazine to be of 'quality'. He wanted it to give a self-respecting image of the blind to themselves and to the public.

"In his personal relations, if only a brief phrase must be used, he was a 'Christian gentleman' in all that this conveys.

"He was dedicated to the cause of the blind. Becoming blind in maturity, he is said to have spent a year soul-searching and adjusting to his new role. Then he took advantage of enforced leisure to study the great philosophers and to do creative things. After which, knowing himself, he did his best to help his fellow (blind) men. He had a vision of blind men and women, forgetting their differences and personal frustrations, uniting to make a better world for the children"

THE WHITE CANE

By Henry Bartleson

(Editor's note: Henry Bartleson, blind leader of the Washington Association, wrote the following article last spring for the benefit of sighted fellow-members of his writing class. The article was published in the December issue of THE WHITE CANE, and is here reprinted with the expectation that its author would be pleased to gain a wider audience of both blind and sighted readers for his informative account.)

There is a familiar picture from ancient times showing the poet Homer walking from place to place, a lyre strapped to his back. He is being led by the hand by a small boy--for Homer was blind. Sophocles pictured the exiled and blinded king Oedipus being led by his faithful daughter for twenty years about the borders of his former kingdom--a beggar, ragged, stubborn and unhappy. In Biblical and medieval times, the blind were pictured as wandering aimlessly about, crying for pity and bread, or crawling out of some ditch into which they had just fallen.

Today, in this age of enlightenment, a great deal has been done to make the lot of the blind a much happier one. Men have applied themselves with dedication, ingenuity and understanding to the needs of the blind.

A century and a half ago, a young Frenchman named Louis

Braille evolved a system of raised dots that could be read by the sense of touch. This system is a marvel of orderliness, ingenuity and good judgment that excites the admiration of all who use it. Oddly, only about one-third of the blind have learned to use Braille.

The commonplace typewriter has given the blind another opportunity to lead a fuller life. Also, a simple system has been devised for them to dial a telephone accurately.

The tape recorder and the record player contribute much to this fuller life.

The Library of Congress has set up a wealth of good books which are known as Talking Books. The finest of voices have been selected to put these works on records, often giving them an extra dimension of which the sighted reader is quite unaware. Without charge, the Postal Department distributes these books to the blind.

To form an Association is as American as ham and eggs, so the blind have organizations where they can point with pride, view with alarm, make and second motions, and in general have as much fun as their sighted fellow Americans.

But the greatest boon of all is mobility. A few prefer the sheltered life of their homes, but most will venture forth alone to work or play, with either a dog guide or a white cane as protection and companion.

The dog guide is universally admired by all who watch him work. Here he most truly earns his title as man's best friend. He is a privileged sort of character; he rides buses and trains, and may go into libraries, restaurants, and many places where no other canine, no matter what his pedigree, may enter. He is well-mannered, and naturally, his blind master has a deep affection for him; yet there must be a certain amount of stern discipline in their relationship.

Buff, a friend of ours who lived in a small town near Seattle, lost his sight quite suddenly. It was determined that he should have a Seeing Eye Dog. He was sent to San Francisco to go through a period of intensive training with Laddie, the dog that had been chosen for him. Under the watchful eye of a skillful trainer, man and dog were worked together. They traveled the hills of San Francisco, riding the trolleys and cable cars and generally gaining travel experience as a team. Finally came the day when they were judged to be safe travelers, and the happy pair boarded the train for home.

A few months later, Buff and his faithful Laddie paid a visit to Seattle. A dog guide works in a harness. When the harness is put on, the dog knows at once that he is strictly a working animal, with no fooling tolerated. A leash is also fastened about his neck, of the type that is known as a "choke chain." If the dog makes a mistake, a jerk of this chain serves to bring him up short and back to his task. If a particularly sharp rebuke is needed, Buff will jerk the chain and say, "Phooey!" in disgust. This is the extreme sign of displeasure.

Buff and Laddie had worked their way to a bus stop and were patiently waiting for their trolley. The day was fine, so they did not mind that they had some time to spare. A lady observed them with a critical gaze. The dog was nice, the harness okey, but the choke chain roused her ire and she lost no time in telling Buff what she thought of him.

"You should be ashamed of yourself!" she admonished. "Don't you know that a nice wide collar would be a lot better than that cruel chain?"

Buff is an easy-going sort, with a soft western drawl, but now his ire, too, was aroused.

"Listen, lady," he began, wagging his finger at from whence the voice came, "this dog has been trained by people who really know dogs and they say that a chain is much more comfortable than a collar 'cause the hair mats down under the collar. If these people say the chain is best, that's what the dog is going to wear!"

As he talked, Buff became more eloquent. He told the lady what he thought of people giving advice when they didn't know too much about the subject in the first place, and was going great guns with his tonguelashing when an amused bystander tapped him on the shoulder.

"Hey, Bud," confided the grinning stranger, "that lady that spoke to you--she's two blocks up the street."

The most popular guidance system for the blind is the long white cane. The cane is white because the blind want the public to know that they are blind and to treat them accordingly. They are not seeking sympathy or special privileges, but they do want understanding that there are many things of which they are not aware. For instance, a waitress behind the coffee counter speaks to a blind man but he may not answer, as too often he has answered when someone

else was being spoken to. The white cane tells the waitress that the man is neither stupid nor rude--just cautious. This is one of the examples of why the white cane is a comfort to its user.

The long white cane is a recent development. It came into being at the close of World War II. The Veterans' Administration was searching for a more satisfactory method of cane travel for its war-blinded soldiers. It was noted that those who used a cane of conventional length soon developed what is known as "blind man's stoop." In reaching out to feel his way, the blind man would tend to hunch over.

The answer was astounding in its simplicity. A cane about sixteen inches longer would let him feel his way, walking erect and with a certain amount of gracefulness.

Another development was what is known as the "rhythm method" of cane travel. The cane is held in either hand at the center of the body, at about belt-buckle level. As he walks, the user swings the cane from side to side, sweeping a path as near to shoulder-wide as possible. As he swings his right foot forward, he swings the cane to the left. As his right foot strikes the ground, the cane taps the ground on the left side of the path he is sweeping. This tells him that all is well and it is safe to take a step with the left foot, since the cane has found no pitfall. Then, as the left foot takes its step, the cane swings to the right, searching to feel if all is well for the next step. In this way, a step is never taken until a tap of the cane has first probed the ground to find that all is well.

This method may sound slow and tedious, but with use it soon becomes almost automatic. The user learns to have confidence in his cane. For him it will find the unexpected stairway, the tricycle left in his path, the curbs as he crosses the street.

And of course, as he travels, the blind man listens to the sound of traffic to give him a sense of direction. Steady traffic he likes, but spotty traffic is not so good. In Suburbia, he even uses the song of birds--who sing on both sides of the road, but seldom over the roadway--to help him choose a safe zone for walking.

The technical boys might be startled by some of these statements, but this is how a blind man sees it, and that is how it really is.

"THE HELPLESS BLIND": DR. CLAIRE OWENS

At 88 years of age, Dr. Claire Estelle Owens of Exeter, Nebraska is in the 43rd year of her third career--that of a busy osteopath. What is more she scoffs at any mention of retirement, according to a feature story published recently in the Omaha WORLD-HERALD.

"Glowing in her wake are enviable records as a music teacher and politician. She spent 19 years as the first public school music teacher at Exeter, Geneva, and Fairmont. A Democrat, she was elected twice to serve in the old two-house Legislature from Fillmore County in 1931 and 1933," the newspaper reported.

Totally blind since the age of eight, Dr. Owens found "an inner talent" for music while attending the old School for the Blind at Nebraska City. Upon graduation she was said to have become the first blind teacher in the nation to teach in a public school.

In 1917 she decided to become a doctor of osteopathy, graduating three years later from the Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy.

"Later she began a crusade, finally realized only two years ago, to get the School for the Blind under the State Department of Education 'instead of under the stigma of being lumped with such state institutions as the penitentiary,'" according to her article.

At her present four-score-and-eight, Dr. Owens was said to have two favorite hobbies: playing the piano each week at the Congregational Church Sunday School, and traveling to distant places. She has visited 44 states and Canada, and recently returned from a rail and airplane trip to the national osteopath convention in New Orleans.

WASHINGTON REPORT

By John F. Nagle

(Editor's note: Following is a report on the state of Congressional legislation for the blind prepared by Mr. Nagle, Chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind, and released in December by the N.F.B. as a legislative bulletin.)

The Congressional season now rapidly drawing to a close is already famous as a time of indecision--both on legislation affecting the nation as a whole and on bills affecting the blind in particular. Despite the general atmosphere of inaction, however, our hopes have not all been deferred. Two measures of direct importance to the blind have been signed into law (S. 1576 and H. R. 7544), and at least two others carry favorable prospects for passage if we act now to express our vigorous support.

S. 1576, involving the expansion of educational facilities for blind children, was signed into law by the President on October 31. The act also establishes a three-year program of research and demonstration projects in the education of disabled youngsters. You will recall that the N.F.B. unanimously adopted a resolution in support of this measure at our Philadelphia convention; we also testified twice before Senate and House committees in favor of the bill.

H. R. 7544, the bill designed to improve maternal and child health and crippled children's programs under the Children's Bureau, was signed into law on October 24. This legislation holds out the possibility of substantially increased federal support for state programs in prevention of blindness--specifically of great value in alleviating the burden of medical expenses for visually handicapped children. The National Federation gave full support to this legislation, in company with the American Foundation for the Blind and other agencies.

H. R. 8363--Amendments to the Internal Revenue Act for 1963--was passed by the House of Representatives and is presently before the Senate Finance Committee. Two Senators have introduced similar measures to amend this tax bill by providing an additional exemption to any taxpayer with a dependent who is blind: S. 2227 by Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana, and S. 640 by Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota. Federationists should write

immediately to Senator Harry F. Byrd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and to the members of the Committee (listed at the end of this bulletin), as well as their own senators. Their letters should urge that H. R. 8363 be amended to include the exemption for taxpayers with blind dependents as contained in S. 2227 and S. 640.

The measure which is of widest importance to blind Americans--the "King-Hartke bill"--still awaits action in both houses of Congress. Introduced in the House last spring as H. R. 6245 by Congressman Cecil R. King of California, and presented to the upper chamber in September by Senator Vance Hartke (S. 2181), the bill is designed to amend titles X and XVI of the Social Security Act to "more effectively encourage and assist blind individuals to achieve rehabilitation and restoration to a normal, full and fruitful life." (Details of the King bill have been described in earlier bulletins and in a Washington Report by John Nagle published in THE BLIND AMERICAN, September, 1963.)

If your senators appear on the following list of Hartke bill co-sponsors, you may help the bill's chances greatly by writing to them in appreciation of their support, explaining how urgently important this legislation is to the blind. Address each senator in care of Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C. The co-sponsors are: Mrs. Margaret C. Smith (Maine); E. L. Bartlett and E. Gruening (Alaska); H. Scott and J. Clark (Pa.); R. Yarborough (Tex.); Mrs. Maurine Neuberger and W. Morse (Oreg.); L. Metcalf (Mont.); F. Moss (Utah); H. Humphrey and E. McCarthy (Minn.); J. Randolph (W. Va.); S. Young (Ohio); D. Inouye (Hawaii); B. Bayh (Ind.); H. Williams (N. J.); J. Eastland (Miss.); D. Brewster (Md.); A. Ribicoff (Conn.); W. G. Magnuson (Wash.).

Another proposal still pending before both houses, with fair chance of favorable action, involves amendments to the postal laws extending the free mailing privilege to tape-recorded letters, along with other special devices and equipment for use by the blind. The amendments are being introduced by Representative Donald Rumsfeld of Illinois (H. R. 8695) and Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois (S. 2183).

Following are the members of the Senate Committee on Finance, who should be addressed in care of the Senate Office Building, Washington, 25, D. C.:

H. F. Byrd, Chairman (Va.); R. B. Long (La.); G. A. Smathers (Fla.); C. P. Anderson (N. Mex.); P. H. Douglas and

E. M. Dirksen (Ill.); A. Gore (Tenn.); H. E. Talmadge (Ga.); E. I. McCarthy (Minn.); A. Ribicoff (Conn.); J. J. Williams (Del.); F. Carlson (Kans.); W. F. Bennett (Utah); C. T. Curtis (Nebr.); T. B. Morton (Ky.); V. Hartke (Ind.), and J. W. Fulbright (Ark.).

THE MAIL BOX: A PIONEERING IDEA

(Editor's note: The following letter from the president of the Progressive Blind of Missouri, George A. Rittgers, to the president of the National Federation of the Blind, Russell Kletzing, describes a successful vending stand project which should be of interest to blind persons and organizations everywhere.)

Russell Kletzing, President
National Federation of the Blind
2341 Cortez Lane
Sacramento, California

Dear Russ:

With the support that the National Federation of the Blind has given us in the Kansas City post office cafeteria problem, I think that my detailing of events is necessitated by the drastic change which has taken place in this situation.

Over the years, the cafeteria gradually changed from a feasible operation for blind persons to one geared for sighted personnel. About a year ago, Ted Bland, the postmaster, conceived a unique and pioneering idea. As time passed, through John Nordyke, the cafeteria general manager, the representative of the employees' committees, and myself as representing the blind, details for a Randolph-Shepard type of stand were worked out, under the direct supervision of John Nordyke.

On the 22nd of July the stand came into being, with three blind persons employed. Now the stand is operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, employing four blind persons full time and one on a part-time basis.

Providing desirable goods and services for the convenience and welfare of postal employees, this stand also provides desirable employment for blind persons in an atmosphere of friendliness and cooperation, which for many years was lacking.

It now appears that it was not the blind, but the personnel of the Missouri state agency for the blind that were in disfavor with the employees' committee and the employees. If in other states there are any state agencies in disfavor with Federal employees, might not this pioneering idea of Mr. Bland's be of advantage in providing goods and services to Federal employees and creating jobs for blind people?

While the blind took a reduction in over one thousand dollars a year in salary when the cafeteria was removed from the jurisdiction of the state agency, I feel that Mr. Bland, Mr. Nordyke, and the employees' representatives will rectify this when justified.

I would urge the National Federation of the Blind to try to expand this pioneering idea of Mr. Bland's in other areas. As matters stand at this time, a spirit of good will and cooperation pervades the atmosphere.

I cannot commend Mr. Bland's efforts too highly for the time and thought he must have given the stand, as well as the employees' representatives and John Nordyke, cafeteria manager, for establishing a vending stand for the blind adjacent to the mailing area in the Kansas City post office.

Cordially yours,

George A. Rittgers, President
The Progressive Blind of
Missouri, Inc.

EMPLOYER PANEL AIDS HANDICAPPED

One of the hardest working retired persons in the country must be Ray Booth, of the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

He is chairman of their employer-applicant panel which was established in 1961.

The mission of Mr. Booth's subcommittee is to explore and open additional opportunities for employment of the handicapped through an exchange of information between persons seeking a job and employers seeking good workers.

This face-to-face kind of program is used in other parts of the Keystone State and, as in Pittsburgh, has led to handicapped placements--including some of the most difficult cases.

Mr. Booth is beginning his third year as chairman of this subcommittee, which is embarked on a new series of monthly sessions designed to facilitate placements.

Since the inception of the program 15 panel meetings have taken place--the first was January 8, 1962--and 47 different individual employers have participated, representing a varied cross section of business, industry, and the professions. They represent retailing, manufacturing, engineering, dairy, public relations, hospital work, restaurant work, laundry work, banking, health insurance, mail-order work, trade associations, and employer associations. Of the employers who have served, 18 have served on two panels.

Mr. Booth, who retired in 1957 as secretary-manager of the Tri-State Industrial Association, Inc., condenses background material on the handicapped applicants who are scheduled to personally appear before an employer panel hearing, and arranges for the meeting place and also obtains the employers who attend.

The applicants are prescreened groups ready for placement, selected by counselors of the Pennsylvania State Employment Service.

Over the years Mr. Booth utilized the service of his association and its monthly bulletin to publicize the Pittsburgh committee's activities in behalf of the handicapped and to encourage employers to hire the handicapped.

He is a recognized and effective salesman for employment of the handicapped. His explanation of the purpose of the employer-applicant panels has won him nearly 100 percent acceptance from persons invited to serve on the panel. Often, panel members have volunteered to serve on his future panels and they welcome the opportunity.

What has this subcommittee accomplished? In calendar year 1962, 36 disabled applicants were interviewed. Panel members placed two directly. Four were placed by the Pennsylvania State Employment Service and four others secured jobs elsewhere acting on suggestions advanced by panel members.

The results of Mr. Booth's subcommittee have also:

- 1) Provided a new lease on life and renewed hope to applicants who may have been turned down on a number of previous applications for employment.
- 2) Changed the attitude of the applicants and provided new motivation.
- 3) Provided employers a firsthand view of the hire-the-handicapped program.

For his work over the past years on the employer-applicant panel subcommittee and his many other contributions to the Pennsylvania program, Booth was cited by the President's Committee and the Pennsylvania Governor's Committee. The award was presented by Lt. Governor Raymond P. Shafer at the 11th Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Governor's Committee in Pittsburgh on September 11.

MEET THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND

(Editor's note: Two new members were added to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind at the organization's 1963 convention at Philadelphia: Dr. Jacob Freid and Mr. Lyle von Erichsen. In accordance with our policy of acquainting our readers with outstanding personalities in the movement of the organized blind, we are reprinting herewith the biographies of Dr. Freid and Mr. von Erichsen from the N.F.B. publication, WHO ARE THE BLIND WHO LEAD THE BLIND? [revised edition, October, 1963].)

JACOB FREID

Member, Board of Directors

Long known to Federationists throughout the country as an aggressive champion of the cause of the organized blind, Dr. Jacob Freid was chosen by the N.F.B. at its 1963 convention to join the national board of directors. During the same convention he was also honored as recipient of the Newel Perry Award, presented by the Federation for distinguished service in the field of work with the blind.

Himself without sight in one eye as the result of a detached retina, Dr. Freid has sufficient remaining vision to read and travel independently with corrective lenses. Following his graduation in 1937 from the College of the City of New York, where he was also an Honor Fellow, he went on to earn a Master's degree in sociology from Columbia University in 1938, and later returned to the same institution to receive a Ph.D. in sociology in 1956.

During the second World War, he was head of the Moscow desk of the Office of War Information and the United States State Department, acting as information liaison between our embassy in Moscow and our State Department in Washington. The work of his desk was considered by Averell Harriman, then U. S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, to be the most successful operation conducted by our nation in its wartime relations with the Soviet Union.

Following the war he accepted an executive position with the American Jewish Congress, which he subsequently left in 1952 to become Executive Director of the Jewish Braille Institute of America. During the same period he taught sociology at Rutgers University, where his courses included a class on "Social Welfare Agencies: Problems, Standards, Community Relations." For the past several years he has been Chairman of the Department of Political Science at the New School for Social Research, New York City, and is presently also Chairman of the Faculty--the highest elective post at an institution of learning which numbers among its faculty some of the nation's most distinguished social scientists.

Dr. Freid is the author of numerous published writings in social science and public welfare, the latest of which is a comprehensive study of Jewish life and history entitled JEWS IN THE MODERN WORLD. Published in 1962, the work has already been hailed by scholars as a classic of social science and "a remarkable treasure-house of information and profoundly perceptive insight into the Jewish

condition of our time."

In presenting the Newel Perry Award to Dr. Freid, N.F.B. President Russell Kletzing summed up the character of his contribution in the following words:

"Dr. Freid has been much more than a guest at each of our conventions since [1958]. He has been a very active participant, an inspired speaker, a wise confidant, and a steadfast friend. Above all he has thrown himself and his considerable energies into the thick of our struggles--both without and within the Federation. When the Kennedy Bill, the Federation's right to organize measure, came before a committee of Congress for public hearings in 1959, and when we were in desperate need of supporting voices to counteract the phalanx of powerful agencies arrayed against us, it was Jacob Freid who braved the wrath of agency interests to fly down to Washington and speak forcefully on behalf of the right of blind people to organize on their own. This was no mere act of courtesy. It was an act of courage, determination and devotion, for Jacob Freid is himself an 'agency man.' These are the qualities, coupled with rare intelligence and insight, which he has consistently and conspicuously displayed in the direction of his own agency: The Jewish Braille Institute of America.

"As the executive director of the Institute and the brilliant editor of its well-known journal, the JEWISH BRAILLE REVIEW, Dr. Freid has long been in the forefront of those enlightened forces in the field of welfare who recognize their function as that of working with the blind rather than merely for them--or against them. His attitude is part and parcel of a larger philosophy. He is a liberal in the true liberating sense: a fighter for every cause of social justice, however 'lost' it may seem; a foe of prejudice and intolerance, wherever they rear their ugly heads; a spokesman for the deprived against the depraved, and for the underdog against the overlord. In short, he is not just a friend of the blind: he is a friend to man."

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LYLE VON ERICHSEN

Member, Board of Directors

A prominent leader of the organized blind in the state of

Washington since 1920, Lyle von Erichsen was elected to the National Federation's board of directors in 1963 in recognition of his multiple talents as an aggressive organizer, successful attorney and foundation administrator.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1900, young Lyle moved with his family to Spokane at the age of six--and one year later fell victim to scarlet fever, with resulting loss of sight. He entered the School for the Blind at Vancouver, Washington, in 1907, continuing through the eighth grade, when he transferred to the Vancouver public school. After graduating from high school in 1919, Lyle enrolled at the University of Washington and received his B.A. degree in 1922. Ambitious for a career in law, he went east the same year to Harvard Law School at Cambridge, Massachusetts, graduating three years later and shortly thereafter gaining admission to the Bar of the State of Washington. He has remained in general law practice since October, 1925, and has steadily built up a flourishing business. His wife, Fern, whom he married in 1929, died in April, 1963.

In 1920, while still a college student, von Erichsen took the lead in forming the local organization for the blind in Spokane, the Eastern Washington Association of the Blind, now called the Spokane County Association for the Blind. He has been president of the Spokane group for approximately 30 of its 43 years of existence, and helped to bring about its affiliation with the Washington State Association in 1944.

Presently serving his second term as vice president of the state association, von Erichsen was president for five years and has also served the organization as treasurer. Calling upon his legal knowledge and experience, he drafted the legislation which in 1937 first provided for state assistance to the blind of Washington and also made provision for the establishment of training centers. A four-time delegate of the W.S.A.B. to conventions of the National Federation, von Erichsen was a member of the public assistance advisory committee of the state Division for the Blind from 1937 until his voluntary resignation two years ago.

Von Erichsen is the founder of the Spokane Foundation for the Blind, Inc., and has been its president since its birth in 1940. The foundation, which he describes as in effect a holding company for the Spokane County Association for the blind, owns all of the property devoted to the blind in the locality--such as a summer cottage at Newman Lake, several buses for transportation of the blind and a large sinking fund for use in local activities.

RESOLUTION FOR NATHAN NADLEMAN

(Editor's note: Following is a resolution eulogizing the late Nathan Nadleman, veteran leader of the organized blind in Massachusetts. The statement was approved unanimously by the Associated Blind of Massachusetts at its recent convention.)

WHEREAS, on Friday, October 4, 1963, Nathan Nadleman passed from this earth to his eternal reward, cutting short a life that was still endowed with an insatiable desire for productive work and achievement, and

WHEREAS, he expended himself for a number of years without regard for his own personal interests and general well-being, and

WHEREAS, these self-sacrificial efforts were made in behalf of the A. B. M. and the N. F. B. toward promoting the social and economic welfare of the blind, and

WHEREAS, in the performance of his many duties as corresponding secretary, state White Cane Week chairman, and treasurer of the Boston Chapter (these offices being held simultaneously), he called upon his mental and physical resources to the utmost, never satisfied with his work unless it was faultlessly well-done, and

WHEREAS, he was an ill man for a longer time than any of us knew, but still continued unrelentingly to keep pace with his many overtaxing duties, never sparing himself, and

WHEREAS, this true spirit of zealous dedication is no longer with us, and realizing what a great loss his going will mean to the blind of Massachusetts and even beyond,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, in convention assembled in Springfield, Massachusetts, this sixth day of October, 1963, extend to their departed brother, hoping that in some mysterious way this message may reach him, conveying their deep feeling of loss, sorrow, and gratitude for his long and tireless service to the blind; and their prayers that God, in His infinite love and mercy, may take Nathan Nadleman into His kingdom where he may reside and enjoy rest and peace for all eternity.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

(Editor's note: The following article is condensed from the B. V. A. NEWS, bimonthly publication of the Blinded Veterans Association of America.)

Writing to your congressman can help--but it can hurt, too. An offensive letter is far worse than no letter at all. A letter with incorrect information, full of overstated complaints, is not going to impress the lawmaker.

A former Congressman, Frank Ikard, of Texas, now vice president of the American Petroleum Institute, in a recent article gave some tips on writing to congressmen. They can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. Know your congressman.
2. Know your subject. Have your facts straight.
3. Be brief and courteous. Stick to one subject.
4. Keep the letter simple and personal. Show by facts and figures how you, yourself, will be affected. Don't use form letters.
5. Write when the bill is still pending in committee--not after it has passed.
6. Don't be afraid that you are imposing on your congressman by writing. It is when the letters from his constituents fall off that he begins to feel uneasy.
7. When the congressman has voted in line with your views, write him a thank-you note. After every key vote a congressman is deluged with mail from displeased constituents. Those who agree with him seldom express approval.
8. Letters can be addressed to your lawmaker in care of House of Representatives or Senate, Washington, D. C. They will get it.

9. When writing to a congressman or senator or a committee of either house, use your own language. Do not write what someone else did. But, write now, before it is too late.

The ideal letter writer lies somewhere between the man who once wrote a 96-page letter to a member of the House and the woman whose letter to Senator Harry F. Byrd (D., Va.) read in its entirety, "Dear Senator: I'm against it."

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ISSUES 1963 STATEMENT

(Editor's note: Each year the Associate Members of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped--consisting of Cabinet Members and the heads of the Administrative agencies chiefly concerned--releases a Joint Statement affirming the goals of the Committee and noting the developments of the past year. Here is the group's statement for 1963.)

The Associate Members of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped recognize the outstanding performance records which qualified handicapped workers are making as important contributions to the national welfare and economic progress of our country. These workers include those with physical handicaps, those who have recovered from mental or emotional illness, and those mentally retarded individuals who are trained for many kinds of jobs.

As we observe National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, we note again the steady gains that have been made in rehabilitation and in employment of the handicapped--gains which in substantial measure are contributing toward the achievement of the highest goals we all wish for our country.

Today, as demands for goods and services have continued to increase year by year, the growth and vitality of our nation call for the best utilization of our trained manpower. A significant part of that resource is the reservoir of qualified handicapped workers

who have proved themselves to be safe, reliable, productive, and punctual workers. Through their vocational rehabilitation, and educational training, these workers have prepared themselves for important roles in the economy. During the past decade and a half the handicapped by their performance on the job have demonstrated the truth of the slogan, "Hire the handicapped--it's good business."

The Associate Members reaffirm the policy that these handicapped persons deserve equal consideration with the able bodied for any position for which they are qualified. To pass them over without consideration would be completely alien to our American way of life, which gives the individual the right to the opportunity to choose his role in life, according to his abilities.

We urge business, industry and labor to continue to further advance the program so that all job applicants will be selected on the basis of ability. We pledge that the Federal Government shall continue to play a leading role in this program of hiring the handicapped at all levels.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Kentucky Leader Ill. Harold Reagan, veteran leader of the organized blind in Kentucky and member of the executive committee of the National Federation of the Blind, is recovering in a Louisville hospital from a broken leg sustained when he was struck by an automobile December 6, according to word received from Robert Whitehead, president of the Kentucky Federation of the Blind. "Harold is doing nicely and carrying on his work from his hospital bed," Bob adds.

In other Kentucky news, the Bluegrass Chapter of the State Federation recently held its annual elections, choosing Mrs. Elizabeth Capp of Lexington to lead the group during the coming year. Other successful and well-attended chapter meetings have been held by the Louisville Association of the Blind and by the Henderson County Council of the Blind, President Whitehead reports.

* * * * *

Blind American in France. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Miss Lynda Bardis, a blind Californian presently studying in France under a scholarship made possible by the California Council of the Blind. Her letter, addressed to James McGinnis, Council president, has been published in the December, 1963, issue of THE COUNCIL BULLETIN.

"I'm sure you're interested to know how a blind person gets along here in France. . . . Well, the first thing I can say is that if you require more or less level and even sidewalks, streets that cross each other at right angles, cars that slow down when they see you standing directly in front of them, and any logical and sane order whatsoever to the layout of things, don't count on getting around by yourself in France. Pau [a city] is like a maze, with fascinating little winding streets cutting into each other at any angle and at any point in the block, with scaffoldings, tricycles, and tables of meat on the sidewalks and with swarms of people scurrying in every direction into and out of every doorway.

"I have taken the coward's way out and go with friends to the places I want to go. . . . Actually, it was quite a shock to realize that drivers could see from a block away that we were there, and couldn't care less whether there was room to drive or not. But the people with whom I have had contact are really wonderful. All my teachers, the people who run the dorm, the people in the restaurant, all of them are so warm and willing to do any little thing that they think might make me more comfortable or make things easier for me. . . . Actually, it isn't much different here. People are the same all over, and it's so wonderful having this opportunity to get to know them."

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Massachusetts Legislator To Run. Gregory B. Khachadoorian, blind attorney from Arlington, Massachusetts, will be campaigning next fall for his fourth consecutive two-year term in the state House of Representatives, according to a letter received from Mrs. Stella A. Babigian, a member of the Boston Chapter of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts. Her communication adds that Khachadoorian has been appointed chairman of the Republican State Committee. He was named by the governor in 1962 to the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts State Division for the Blind.

* * * * *

Another Peace Corps Applicant. Michael Yale, blind student at the University of California's Berkeley campus, hopes to be the fourth blind volunteer to serve in the Peace Corps, according to a feature article published in the OAKLAND TRIBUNE, December 8, 1963. The 19-year-old junior, a journalism major, also hopes to go on to a law degree, the newspaper reported.

"The routine of campus life he and his guide dog Archie handle in the same matter-of-fact way they embarked upon a 27-day bus tour of the country last summer. He and Archie did the entire tourist bit--climbed the Washington Monument, swam in the Great Salt Lake and Lake Michigan, had a wee-hour gabfest in a Greenwich Village coffee house."

Blinded by an explosion at the age of five, young Yale was encouraged on advice of his physician to learn to do things for himself. "As a result of that advice, and a generous portion of native gumption on the youth's part, the result is a well-rounded young man who has behind him several years' service to charity as a benefit pianist, has won medals for debating and public speaking, dabbles in poetry, plays bridge, bowls, cooks his own breakfast, and cruises around the U.C. campus on a layout that he's learned by heart, without the traditional white cane carried by blind persons," the article said.

* * * * *

African Student at Hadley. Jason Mutugi, leader of the blind in Kenya, was a visitor recently at the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind in Winnetka, Illinois, according to HADLEY HIGHLIGHTS, a quarterly publication of the school. The 29-year-old Mutugi, who received much of his advanced education through the Hadley School's tuition-free correspondence courses, represents a blind population of 70,000 people, of whom 25,000 are children under 15.

"Injured by a stone at the age of seven, Jason was carried by his mother for three days through the jungle in search of medical aid," the journal reported. "Help was reached too late to save his sight. When twelve, he enrolled in the newly-founded Salvation Army Institute for the Blind at Thika, Kenya."

For five years, starting in 1954, Mutugi took courses in English offered by Hadley, which permitted him to continue with teacher training rather than halting his education and returning to his tribe.

"After two years' teacher training in Thika, he was certified by his government to teach the blind. Prior to his teaching, Jason demonstrated the patience needed for his future work--he transcribed the New Testament into Swahili braille. This job, done by hand, took two years to accomplish," the article pointed out.

During these years of study and work, Jason founded the Kenya Union of the Blind. With some of his blind friends he also organized and collected braille books to start Kenya's first braille library. More recently he has completed studies at the Royal Commonwealth Society of the Blind in London and is now studying field work methods at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Toronto.

* * * * *

Lawmaker's Tribute to tenBroek. At a recent San Francisco luncheon held in honor of Assemblyman Phillip Burton, Chairman of the California Assembly Committee on Social Welfare, the state lawmaker paid oratorical tribute to Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, president of the American Brotherhood for the Blind and former chairman of the State Board of Social Welfare. As reported by the California Council of the Blind BULLETIN, Assemblyman Burton revealed that late in the last session of the 1963 legislature, he had explained to Dr. tenBroek that he (Burton) could assure the enactment of Assembly Bill 59--providing numerous substantial benefits to the aged, blind, disabled and needy children--only if Dr. tenBroek would consent to enactment of the bill which would transfer the Social Welfare Board's functions to the Director of Social Welfare. Without hesitation, according to the BULLETIN, Dr. tenBroek decided in favor of the benefits for the welfare recipients. Their welfare was paramount to the jurisdiction of the Board.

* * * * *

Help Wanted. Pauline Gomez, the energetic president of the New Mexico Federation of the Blind, has sent out a call to alumni of the Oakland (California) Orientation Center for further assistance in promoting such a center for New Mexico. She reports that tremendous opposition to the project is now developing from the agencies for the blind in her state. An interim study was nevertheless

authorized by the New Mexico legislature under chairmanship of Senator Tibo Chavez. Pauline has asked that as many as possible of those who have been students at the Oakland Center write letters to Senator Chavez explaining how the Center has benefited them. Letters should be addressed to: Senator Tibo J. Chavez, P. O. Box 544, Belen, New Mexico.

* * * * *

Rehab Courses from Hadley. The rehabilitation department of the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind is increasing its program in the development of new rehabilitation courses, according to an announcement from the Winnetka, Illinois, school. Working closely with schools, agencies and training centers for the blind throughout the country, the Hadley School is providing specific training programs and pre-vocational information which should lead to actual on-the-job training and increased employment opportunities for blind persons.

The basic course of the Hadley rehab department is "Introduction to Rehabilitation," developed by Dr. Herbert Rusalem of Hunter College and the Industrial Home for the Blind in Brooklyn. Available in braille and recorded form, the course reportedly serves two purposes: it provides blind persons with understanding and information regarding services, resources, and agencies available to them; and it provides the motivation to learn braille. Several teacher-training centers are said to be considering the use of this and other Hadley courses in their scholastic program.

* * * * *

A. F. D. C. Aid Dangerously Low. The public assistance program of aid to families with dependent children (A. F. D. C.) reaches only a fraction of the Nation's impoverished families, according to an article in the November issue of Welfare in Review, monthly periodical of the Welfare Administration.

The article, "A. F. D. C. in Review: 1936-1963," was written by Ellen J. Perkins, Chief of the Division of Program Statistics and Analysis, in the Bureau of Family Services. It discusses trends

in the program since its authorization under the Social Security Act of 1935.

Mrs. Perkins estimates that not more than 1 in every 6 impoverished children (a term covering an estimated 17-23 million youngsters in families with incomes so low that they must choose between adequate diet and another necessity, but cannot afford both) was reached by A.F.D.C. in December, 1962. At that time, there were 885,000 needy families with 2,700,000 children receiving assistance. The A.F.D.C. program was reaching about half of the poor families headed by women.
